



# **SPORTS RULES SYNCHRONIZED SKATING 2026**

June 2026

Note:

In the ISU Constitution and Regulations, the masculine gender used in relation to any physical person (for example, Skater/Competitor, Official, member of an ISU Member etc. or pronouns such as he, they, them) shall, unless there is a specific provision to the contrary, be understood as including the feminine gender.

See also the ISU Constitution  
and  
Competition and Event Regulations (“CER”)

# INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

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### **Rule 800 Discipline and content of Synchronized Skating**

1. The discipline of Synchronized Skating (Senior and Junior) consists of two sub-disciplines:
  - a) Synchro12-16: a team is formed by twelve to sixteen Skaters;
  - b) Synchro9: a team is formed by nine Skaters. Pending agreement of the International Olympic Committee ("IOC") Synchro9 is the sub-discipline for the Olympic Winter Games ("OWG") and the Winter Youth Olympic Games ("YOG"). The maximum number of entries for the OWG/YOG will be defined by the IOC.
2. A Synchronized Skating Team may include both women and men.
  - a) The object of a Team is to perform as one unit.
  - b) Each Team may have up to a maximum of one alternate for Synchro9, and four alternates for Synchro12-16 listed as such on the Team roster. In case of injury/illness during practices or competition, at either the Competition venue or practice venue, the Team will be permitted to skate as long as it is provided the number of Competitors is reduced by no more than two Skaters in Synchro12-16 and Novice and one Skater in Synchro9. The injury/illness must be certified by the ISU Medical Advisor assigned to the respective Competition or the Team Physician.
  - c) Exceptions to the composition of a Team may be decided by the Council for multi-sports events sanctioned by the ISU.
3. The two sub-disciplines or either of them can be included in all International Competitions and Championships in Synchronized Skating for Seniors and Juniors.
4. In Novice a Team can consist of nine to sixteen Skaters.
5. Age limits for Synchronized Skating - See Article 9.4 Competition and Event Regulations ("CER").

## **I. REGULATIONS FOR BOTH SUB-DISCIPLINES**

### **A. COMPETITIONS**

#### **1. General**

##### **Rule 801 Competition Personnel**

1. The following competition personnel designated by the Organizing Committee (“OC”) are necessary:
  - a) an announcer to summon the Teams and to read the scores and results;
  - b) up to two timekeepers, chosen by the OC from their National or International lists of Officials;
  - c) supplementary competition personnel (if necessary) to guarantee the orderly conduct of the competition in other respects;
  - d) Referee’s Assistant at ice level (“RAI”), chosen by the OC from their National or International lists of Synchronized Skating Officials.
  
2. The Organizing Committee must assign a person (International or National level Synchronized Skating Official) as the RAI, near the entrance with the following functions/duties:
  - a) permit (verifying the competing Skaters) the first and each additional Team to enter the ice for their warm-up;
  - b) check for the maximum number of authorized alternate(s) at ice level;
  - c) monitor the ice conditions and report problems to the Referee;
  - d) direct a registered alternate to enter the ice for the express purpose of picking up objects on the ice considered hazardous to the Skaters;
  - e) shall not Judge or take notes during the Team performance. For safety reasons, the full attention of the RAI must be on the Team;
  - f) not participate in the Victory Ceremony.
  
3. Technical Committee Representative

A Representative of the Technical Committee will be present at each ISU Event and at selected International Competitions decided by the Council in order to identify issues that need for discussion at the Technical Committee.

##### **Rule 802 Required Rinks**

1. The available skating area for the competition must be rectangular and if possible, shall measure sixty meters in length and thirty meters in width, but not larger, and not less than fifty-six meters in length and twenty-six meters in width. Officials shall not be seated on the ice surface. The Judges, the Referee and the Technical Panel will be seated in an elevated position, if possible.
  
2. For International Synchronized Skating Competitions, at least one covered and preferably heated rink is required. For ISU Synchronized Skating Championships two covered, closed and heated ice rinks are required.

### **Rule 803 Definition of the Skate Blade**

Figure skating blades used during competitions must be sharpened to produce a flat to concave cross section without change to the width of the blade as measured between the two edges. However, a slight tapering or narrowing of the cross section of the blade is permitted.

### **Rule 804 Clothing**

1. At ISU Events, International Competitions and the YOG, the clothing and makeup of the competitors must be modest, dignified and appropriate for athletic competition not garish or theatrical in design. Costumes may, however, reflect the character of the music chosen.  
The clothing must not give the effect of excessive nudity inappropriate for the discipline. Men must wear full-length trousers. Accessories, feathers, props and rhinestones adhered to the face are not permitted. Costumes that transform in appearance will be considered as props.  
Clothing and makeup that does not adhere to these guidelines will be penalized by a deduction.
2. The decorations on costumes must be non-detachable. Part of the costume or decoration falling on the ice will be penalized by a deduction.

### **Rule 805 Music**

1. All programs must be skated to music.
2. Teams shall furnish competition music of excellent quality in a format and means as per the announcement of the competition in accordance with Article 3.4.2.4 c) CER.
  - a) The Teams must announce the exact running time of the music (not skating time), which shall be certified by the Team Coach, Team Manager or Team Leader at the time of registration.
  - b) Each program (Short Program/Free Skating) must be recorded on one separate track.
  - c) Teams must provide a back-up drive for each program in a format and means as per the announcement of the competition.
3. All music used for competitive events must be played on high quality electronic means, which shall be used during the competition. The organizer shall furnish, for each rink used for the competition and practice, adequate facilities for the reproduction and playback of music. The facilities to be provided by the organizer must be set forth in the Announcement of the competition.
4. Precautions must be taken to prevent frequency and/or voltage variations.
5. The volume level of the music as determined by the ISU Medical Committee in either the practice or competition rinks must not exceed 85–90 dB Sound Pressure Level in any part of the arena.
6. The organizers of each competition shall undertake to delete, after the competition, all music files which they have received in connection with the competition.
7. If there is no official practice, the organizer must provide the Team, Coach, Team Manager or Team Leader the opportunity to check before the competition that electronically submitted music is the correct Competitor's music.

### **Rule 806 Announcement of Entries and Panels of Officials**

For the purpose of verifying the compliance of Competitions with requirements for World Standing consideration as published in ISU Communications, preliminary unofficial announcements of entries (by Team name) and Officials of relevant competitions and categories, other than ISU Events, must be made by the Organizing Committee at any time after the closing of entries but at the latest 7 days before the competition starts. This provision is optional for other competitions and categories. However, the names of all Teams' Skaters, including alternates may be finally announced at the time of registration.

### **Rule 807 Video Recordings**

The hosting ISU Member, or as the case may be, the ISU, shall provide to the Referee video recording of each Segment of the competition.

### **Rule 808 Draws**

1. The draws for the starting order of the Short Program first Segment are made publicly by the Referee. The Referee should ask the Organizing Committee to check the correct spelling of the names of the Teams and Officials.
2. Starting numbers shall be drawn by each Team, if present, or by official representatives of their ISU Member or by members of the Organizing Committee.
3. The official announcement of the entries and of the panels of Officials is made by the Referee of each competition at the time of the first starting order draw of that competition. Different procedures may apply for ISU Events.

### **Rule 809 Communications during Competitions**

All official communications during ISU Synchronized Skating Championships and International Competitions must be published in English.

### **Rule 810 Behavior of Competitors and Officials**

1. Encouragement or advice of any kind, especially prompting during skating, by Officials, is not permitted.
2. Skaters are not allowed to use headphones, earbuds or any similar devices on the ice during any official practice and during the event.

### **Rule 811 Falls and interruptions**

1. A Fall is defined as loss of control by a Skater with the result that the majority of his/her own body weight is on the ice supported by any other part of the body other than the blades e.g. hand(s), knee(s), back, buttock(s) or any part of the arm. For every Fall there shall be a deduction (see Rule 856, para 1.I) and Rule 13).
2. An Interruption is defined as the time elapsed between the moment a Skater(s) stops performing the program until the moment he/they resume performing the program. For every Interruption by one or more Skaters of more than 10 seconds, there shall be a deduction (see Rule 856, para 1.I) and Rule 13). If an Interruption by the Team as a whole lasts more than 40 seconds, an acoustic signal is produced by the Referee and the Team is withdrawn. For cases of interruption due to adverse conditions unrelated to the Skater or related to the Skater's health or equipment, see Rule 822.

### **Rule 812 World Ranking Systems**

1. The relevant ISU Bodies shall determine and publish in an ISU Communication calculation system to establish world rankings:
  - a) for Synchronized Skating separately for Seniors and Juniors;
  - b) by ISU Members including Team Event Results and/or individual results.
2. World rankings are updated and published on the ISU website.

### **Rule 813 Awards**

1. Awards are made for the final result of each competition.
2. Medals are awarded only to members of Synchronized Skating Teams including registered alternates actually taking part in the competition.
3. The hosting ISU Member may make additional awards for placement in any Segment of the competition.
4. Members of the ISU may not award for other competitions any medals which resemble the ISU Championships medals.

### **Rule 814 Exhibitions during Competitions**

A Team in an International Synchronized Skating Competition may not give an additional performance until all parts of the competition have been completed and the results of the competition in question announced.

### **Rule 815 Protocol**

1. A protocol must be published after each ISU Synchronized Skating Championships and International Competition. It must include the general and special items specified below.
2. The general items of a protocol are:
  - a) the place of the event and the name of the ice rink;
  - b) the date and time when the event was held;
  - c) for the ISU Synchronized Skating Championships only: a list with the ISU Council, Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance Technical Committee members, Synchronized Skating Technical Committee members and ISU Director General;
  - d) the attending ISU Office Holders;
  - e) participating ISU Members and Entries;
  - f) the composition of the Organizing Committee;
  - g) the event schedule (on ice and off-ice schedule);
  - h) the Officials; (for each Segment if applicable);
  - i) the type of rink (heated or unheated);
  - j) the size of the skating area/ice surface;
  - k) the ice conditions;
  - l) the number of entries, followed by the number of Teams who took part;
  - m) the sub-disciplines and special conditions of the Segments, the factors and duration;

3. A protocol must be signed by the Referee and in Synchrono12-16 by the Technical Controller.
4. In the protocols of ISU Synchronized Skating Championships, the photographs of the Teams placed first, second and third must be included.  
Only Team Skaters may be pictured in this photograph.  
For the International Competitions the inclusion of photographs of the Teams placed first, second and third is not mandatory.
5. Protocol for ISU Events and International Competitions must be sent in electronic form to the ISU Office for publication on the ISU website, not later than two weeks after the completion of the event.

### **Rule 816 Novelty formats**

For modifications of a technical nature and new methods/systems with respect to the Sports Rules Synchronized Skating, the provisions of Article 3.1.7.5 CER and 3.2 apply.

## **2. Championships – Special Rules**

### **Rule 817 Allotment**

For Regulations concerning the allotment and dates of the ISU Synchronized Skating Championships see Article 6.1 CER.

### **Rule 818 Schedule/Duration of Championships**

ISU Synchronized Skating Championships must not exceed six days, with a minimum of two days. At least one day of free practice at the site of the Championships, for all Teams, must be provided by the hosting ISU Member prior to the first competitive skating day to any ISU Synchronized Skating Championships.

### **Rule 819 Participation in Championships**

Participation in the ISU Synchronized Skating Championships is open to all Skaters of Teams who belong to an ISU Member (for a possible waiver see Article 8.5 CER).

### **Rule 820 Entries in Championships**

1. At ISU Synchronized Skating Championships, the entries of Teams must reach simultaneously the ISU Office and the Organizing Committee at the latest twenty-eight days before the first day (opening and first draws) of the Championships. For post entries, Article 10.2.6 CER applies.
2. In ISU Synchronized Skating Championships for Synchrono9, each ISU Member, may enter one Team.
3. Each ISU Member, may enter one substitute Team in the case of one entry but not more than two substitute Teams in the case of two entries. The substitute Team may compete only if its ISU Member has withdrawn the name of its Team entered for the competition 2 weeks before the first draw.  
However, the names of all Teams' Skaters, including alternates may be finally announced at the time of registration.

### **Rule 821 Music Titles**

The title of the music for each Segment and the names of the composers must be submitted with the entries for ISU Synchronized Skating Championships. If possible, this should be printed in the program.

### **Rule 822 Interruptions, Music Deficiencies, Adverse Conditions and Incomplete Programs**

1. An Interruption is defined as the period of time starting immediately when a Skater/Team stops performing the program or is ordered to do so by the Referee, whichever is earlier, and ending when the Skater/Team resumes his/their performance.  
The Referee shall decide where the point of interruption is and communicates this to the Team Captain, the Judges and, for Synchro12-16, the Technical Controller. The Skater/Team shall resume the program according to paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 below. For Synchro12-16, the Technical Panel decides if the interruption occurred at the entrance to or during the Element. The Technical Controller shall inform the Referee accordingly.
2. Music Deficiencies.  
If the tempo or quality of the music is deficient or if for any reason there is an interruption or stop in the music, the Competitors must stop skating when they become aware of the problem or at the acoustic signal of the Referee, whichever is earlier.
  - a) If any of these problems with music occurs within the 20 seconds after the start of the program, it is the choice of the Competitors whether to continue from the point of the interruption of music or restart the program. If the Competitors decide to restart the program, the Judges and, for Synchro12-16, the Technical Panel evaluate the program from the beginning, disregarding previous evaluation. If the Competitors decide to continue from the point of the interruption of music, the Judges and, for Synchro12-16, the Technical Panel continue evaluating the program from the moment the Competitors start to resume the program and the prior evaluation remains.
  - b) If any of these problems occurs more than 20 seconds after the start of the program, the Competitors shall resume the program from the point of interruption or, for Synchro12-16, if the interruption occurred at the entrance to or during an Element, at the point immediately preceding this Element. If this Element was identified and called by the Technical Panel before the interruption, the Technical Panel has to delete it from the list of the performed Elements. The Competitors are allowed to repeat this Element when resuming the program.
  - c) No deductions apply for interruptions due to music deficiencies.
3. Adverse conditions unrelated to a Skater/Team and/or his/their equipment.  
If an adverse condition unrelated to a Skater/Team or his/their equipment, such as lighting, ice-condition, item thrown onto the ice etc. occurs, the Team Captain and/or the Team must stop skating and report to the Referee when he/they become aware of the problem or at the acoustic signal of the Referee, whichever is earlier. When the problem is solved, the Team shall continue from the point of interruption or, for Synchro12-16, if the interruption occurred at the entrance to or during an Element, at the point immediately preceding this Element. If for Synchro12-16 this Element was identified and called by the Technical Panel before the interruption, the Technical Panel shall delete it from the list of the performed Elements. The Team is allowed to repeat this Element when resuming the program. If, the interruption

lasts longer than 10 minutes, there shall be a second warm-up period according to Rule 852, paragraph 2. After the second warm-up, the Team shall continue from the point of interruption or, for Synchro12-16, if the interruption occurred at the entrance to or during an Element, at the point immediately preceding this Element. No deductions apply for interruptions unrelated to the Skater/Team and/or his/their equipment.

4. Adverse conditions related to a Skater/Team and/or his/their equipment occurring during the program.

If a Skater is injured during the program or another adverse condition related to him or his equipment (such as but not limited to lace undone, damage to clothing or skates) occurs, the Skater must stop skating when he becomes aware of the problem or at the acoustic signal of the Referee, whichever is earlier. The music shall be stopped only if the Referee instructs the music technician to do so according to section b) below.

Duration of Interruptions:

- a) Up to 40 seconds

If the adverse conditions can be remedied without delay, the Skater does not need to report to the Referee, and the rest of the Team has continued to skate their program and the affected Skater(s) resumes skating their program within 40 seconds, the Referee will apply a deduction for interruption.

- b) Up to 3 minutes

If a Skater/Team does not resume skating within 40 seconds, the Referee shall instruct the music technician to stop the music, and allow the Skater/Team 3 additional minutes. If the Skater/Team resumes skating within this additional period, the Referee will apply a deduction of 5.0 points for Synchro 12-16, or 4.0 points for Synchro9 or no deduction if medical attention is required. This deduction also covers an interruption of up to 40 seconds immediately preceding the allowance of 3 additional minutes.

When the problem is solved, the Skater/Team shall continue from the point of interruption or, for Synchro12-16, if the interruption occurred at the entrance to or during an Element which was called by the Technical Panel before the interruption, at the point immediately following this Element. The call made prior the interruption shall stay.

Only one resumption per program is allowed upon an allowance of additional 3 minutes. If there is a second interruption of more than 40 seconds due to an adverse condition related to the Skater/Team or his/their equipment, the Team shall be considered withdrawn.

5. Medical attention

If medical attention is required (including nose bleeding), the Referee must stop the performance by an acoustic signal, follow the Medical Protocol (Communication 2267 or any update thereof) and instruct the music technician to stop the music.

After consulting with the respective Team Physician, or, if not present, the medical doctor provided by the Organizer, the Referee shall decide if the Skater is allowed back to compete. If the Referee does not allow the Skater to resume within 3 minutes since the Skater stopped skating his program, another Skater may be substituted per paragraph 9 below. If the Referee allows the Skater to continue skating his program no deduction will apply.

When the problem is resolved, the Skater/Team shall continue from the point of interruption or, for Synchro12-16, if the interruption occurred at the entrance to or during an Element, at the point immediately following this Element, which is called by the Technical Panel and the call remains.

- a) In case of Skater's injury, which requires Skater's evacuation by the medical personal from the ice surface and/or new ice resurfacing is needed after the accident, this three minutes period is not in place.
  - b) If a substitute Skater is available but not used, and the Team chooses to finish their program with less than the original number of Skaters, Rule 800, paragraph 2 b) will apply.
  - c) If a Team initially starts to compete with less than required Skaters, Rule 800, paragraph 2 b) will apply. If an injury or adverse condition occurs, paragraph 4
6. Adverse condition occurring prior the beginning of the program with allowance of up to three minutes.
- a) If any adverse condition related to a Skater/Team or his/their equipment occurs between the call to the start and taking the starting position, which cannot be remedied within 60 seconds (Rule 853), the Referee shall allow the Skater/Team 3 additional minutes and apply a deduction of 5.0 points as per paragraph 4 b) above.
  - b) If any adverse condition related to the Skater/Team or his/their equipment occurs after he/they take the ice but before the call to the start and the time before the start of the program is not sufficient to remedy such condition, the Referee shall allow the Competitor 3 additional minutes before being called to the start and apply a deduction as per paragraph 4b) above.
7. Limit of the interruptions allowed.  
Only one interruption, up to 3 minutes, is allowed whenever it takes place (prior or during the program). If there is a second interruption of more than 40 seconds due to an adverse condition related to a Skater/Team (including medical problems) or his equipment the Team shall be considered withdrawn.
8. Incomplete Segments.  
If a Team does not complete a Segment, no marks will be awarded and the Team shall be considered withdrawn.
9. Substitution of Skaters.  
Once a Segment has started, no substitution of a Skater will be permitted (if there is no visible reason i.e. injury/equipment failure, etc.). However, registered Team alternates may be substituted if the Team's segment is stopped by the Referee due to injury or equipment problems. If a Team substitutes a Skater without the authorization of the Referee, the Team will be disqualified.

### **Rule 823 Presentation of medals**

For awarding medals at ISU Synchronized Skating Championships Article 12.2. CER applies.

### **Rule 824 Medals**

The ISU Office will provide the hosting ISU Member with the Championships Medals.

### **Rule 825 Advertisement of Ice Shows**

At ISU Synchronized Skating Championships, no advertising of ice shows is allowed inside or outside the ice rinks or in the program sold or given to the public. If such advertisements exist, the ISU Event Manager and/or the ISU Representative must intervene immediately.

## **B. Officials**

### **1. Nomination and Listing of Officials**

#### **Rule 826 Process for Nomination and Listing of Officials**

1. Every ISU Member must, annually before April 15th, nominate to the ISU Office individuals who are recommended for Officials listed in Article 14.5 CER.
  - a) for ISU Seminar and ISU Examination to become an International Referee and first listing;
  - b) for ISU Seminar and ISU Examination to become an ISU Referee and first listing;
  - c) for ISU Seminar and ISU Examination to become an International Judge and first listing;
  - d) for ISU Examination to become an ISU Judge and first listing;
  - e) for ISU Seminar and ISU Examination to become an International Technical Controller and first listing;
  - f) for ISU Seminar and ISU Examination to become an ISU Technical Controller and first listing;
  - g) for ISU Seminar and ISU Examination to become an International Technical Specialist and first listing;
  - h) for ISU Seminar and ISU Examination to become an ISU Technical Specialist and first listing;
  - i) for ISU Seminar to become an ISU or International Data & Replay Operator and first listing.
2. Nominations must be submitted, and listings by the ISU must be made, separately for the different qualifications and the different sub-disciplines as follows:
  - a) Referees and Judges
  - b) Technical Controllers and Technical Specialists
  - c) Data & Replays Operators.
3. Each nomination of an Official by an ISU Member must be accompanied by the completed official form for the respective discipline and qualification of Official.
4. The ISU Member must verify in accordance with Rules 827 – 830 or 859 - 862 the qualifications of the individual recommended for the qualification of Official applied for.
5. In the case of national activities required for ISU Examination, first listing or re-listing, the ISU Member must submit together with its nominations, the respective documents confirming these activities such as a list of Panel of the event or a statement of the ISU Member or the Referee.
6. Officials can be nominated in the following way:
  - a) for first listing: by an ISU Member (Technical Specialists and Technical Controllers also by the Technical Committee);
  - b) for annual re-listing as an International Official: by the Technical Committee unless otherwise informed by the ISU Member;
  - c) for annual re-listing as an ISU Official: by the Technical Committee unless otherwise informed by the ISU Member.
7. In principle, Officials nominated to be entered on the list of an ISU Member shall have the citizenship of the country of that ISU Member.

8. If an Official nominated to be entered on the list of an ISU Member does not have the citizenship of the country of that ISU Member, Article 8.2.1 CER applies by analogy.
9. An Official who has already been on the list of any ISU Member, can be nominated to be entered on the list of another ISU Member as per Article 8.8 CER.
10. Candidates having passed successfully all parts of an ISU Examination to become an Official will immediately be added to the current and respective list of Officials of the ISU Member concerned.
11. The listing as Officials from among nominated persons requires the initial approval of the Technical Committee which prepares a list of the individuals it recommends for inclusion into the list and submits that list to the ISU Vice-President Figure Skating. If a nominated person is not included on the Technical Committee's approved list, an appeal may be made by the nominating ISU Member to the ISU Vice-President Figure Skating whose decision shall be final. Only Officials finally approved by the Technical Committee and the ISU Vice-President Figure Skating will be recognized as such. When a nominated person is not approved by the ISU, the reason for such non-approval will be communicated to the nominating ISU Member.
12. The ISU Vice-President Figure Skating may, following consultation with the Technical Committee, add without prior nomination a maximum of:
  - a) three names to the lists of Referees, Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Data & Replay Operators,
  - b) six names to the list of Judges.Persons so listed by the ISU Vice-President Figure Skating must satisfy all qualification requirements.
13. As ISU Officials are entitled to serve as International Officials in the same function (see Rule 834, General, b)), their names are not included in the list of International Officials.
14. As ISU Referees are entitled to serve as ISU Judges or International Judges (see Rule 834, General, c)), their names are not included in the list of ISU Judges and International Judges.
15. As International Referees are entitled to serve as International Judges (see Rule 834, General, d)), their names are not included in the list of International Judges.
16. The full list of Officials who have been approved by the Technical Committee and the ISU Vice-President Figure Skating must be communicated to the ISU Members in accordance with Article 14.6 CER. The listings shall be effective August 1st of each year through July 31st of the following year.
17. ISU Members must check the list of Officials as soon as they receive it. Any request for correction must be made within 2 months. After that period the list is deemed to be correct. Objections to any such list must be lodged by ISU Members within two months, with the ISU Vice-President Figure Skating, whose decision, after consideration of any such objection, shall be final.

### **Rule 827 General Requirements for Nomination and Listing of Officials**

1. Each ISU Member shall guarantee that the Referees, Technical Controllers and Judges nominated by it, for first listing or re-listing are eligible persons in accordance with Article 7.2.1 CER. In cases of violation of the foregoing, the ISU Member concerned shall lose the right to nominate Officials for the immediately succeeding year and the Referee, Technical Controller or Judge in question shall be removed from the lists.
2. ISU Members must exercise the utmost care to nominate as Officials only competent, reliable, trained, tested and impartial individuals who possess a thorough knowledge of the ISU Rules appropriate to their qualification. Individuals nominated as Officials must have a working knowledge of English appropriate to the duties attached to their qualification.
3. Service and seminar attendance taken into consideration for the specific requirements for nomination and listing of Officials (see Rules 827 – 830 and 859 - 862), are only those in the respective discipline, unless specifically mentioned.
4. For any first listing, the international service (when applicable) and national service (when applicable) of the concerned Official in the requested qualification(s) must have been considered satisfactory:
  - a) for international service: by the Technical Committee,
  - b) for national service: by the respective ISU Member (when the Official is nominated by an ISU Member),
  - c) for the period of time preceding the nomination during which the service requirements must be met.
5. For re-listing of Referees and Judges, Officials who have not been able to meet the service requirement because, although nominated to serve, have not been drawn, shall not be disqualified from re-listing.
6.
  - a) Any ISU Official, not fulfilling the service and/or seminar/webinar/online learning modules attendance requirements preceding July 1st for re-listing for the respective qualification shall be transferred to the list of International Officials of the respective qualification. To be eligible for reinstatement to the position formerly held, the concerned Official then must fulfill the lacking requirement(s) prior to July 1st of the following year. If these requirements are still not fulfilled, the concerned Official remains on the list of International Officials, provided the requirements for this qualification are fulfilled.
  - b) Any International Official, not fulfilling the service and/or seminar/webinar/online learning modules attendance requirements for re-listing preceding July 1st shall be deleted from the list of International Officials. To be eligible for reinstatement to the position formerly held, the concerned Official then must fulfill the lacking requirement(s) prior to July 1st of the following year. If these requirements are not fulfilled, the Official must fulfill the requirements for first listing as an International Official and be nominated accordingly.
  - c) However, in case the seminar/webinar/online learning modules attendance requirement is not fulfilled because of medically certified illness the consequences stipulated in paragraphs a) and b) above shall not apply for 1 year.
7. ISU Examinations:
  - a) Admission to an ISU Examination is restricted to individuals who have not received any ISU assessment, or sanction.

- b) The criteria to pass successfully the ISU Examinations to become an Official are published in ISU Communications.
  - c) Each ISU Examination to become an Official cannot be taken more than three times by a candidate. In case of two failures, there must be an interval of at least twenty-four months between the second and the third final attempt.
  - d) For an ISU Official recertification examination: If the required ISU status level is not achieved, the Official will be downgraded to International level for the following season and can take the respective recertification examination in the following season. If the required International status level is not achieved, the Official will be removed from the list.
8. Reinstatement of Officials after suspension for misconduct:
- a) The suspension for misconduct of an Official by the Disciplinary Commission shall apply to all the ISU/International qualifications and disciplines for which the Official was qualified.
  - b) An Official suspended for misconduct by the Disciplinary Commission for a specified period of time shall be eligible for reinstatement at the end of that time, as follows, unless a request to the contrary is received from the ISU Member of the Official:
    - (i) an Official suspended for misconduct for up to three seasons shall be reinstated in the position formerly held if he was fulfilling the age, service and seminar attendance requirements for re-listing for this qualification as of July 1st preceding the reinstatement. If applicable, service in National Competitions during the period of suspension shall not be taken into consideration. If these requirements were not fulfilled (or could not be fulfilled), provisions of paragraph 6 above shall apply;
    - (ii) to be reinstated, an Official suspended for misconduct for more than three seasons must again fulfill the requirements for first listing as an International Official and be nominated accordingly.
9. Definitions for the purpose of Rules 827 to 829 and 859 to 861:
- a) National Competition: means Senior, Junior or Advanced Novice national, sectional, divisional championships or competition.
  - b) International Competition: means ISU Event, YOG or other International Senior or Junior Competition as per Article 3.1.1 CER, with, for the Segments considered for service requirements, two or more ISU Members participating. Service in International Advanced Novice competitions conducted in accordance with Article 9.4.3 CER, with the above minimum number of ISU Members participating is considered as an activity. Other International non-ISU event activity, of two or more ISU Members participating can also be considered as activity if no Teams participate in the National Competition.
  - c) Trial Judging in an ISU Seminar for first listing as International Judges: means judging a competition live or on screen with an evaluation by a moderator.
  - d) The number of National or International Competitions considered for service requirements is the number of different Competitions of an age category per discipline relevant for the nomination or listing being sought. Different Segments of a competition are not considered as a different Competition however, each age category is considered as different Competitions.

### **Rule 828 Specific Requirements for Nomination and Listing of Referees**

1. **To be eligible for first listing as an International Referee, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**
- a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination.

- b) Background:
  - (i) have been included as International Judge in the three consecutive annual ISU Communications of Officials immediately preceding the nomination;
  - (ii) have the highest knowledge of the discipline concerned;
  - (iii) possess good communication skills;
  - (iv) be able to take directions and work within a team environment.
- c) Service: have served, during the three seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination:
  - (i) as a Referee, in two National Competitions;
  - (ii) as a Judge (or as a Technical Controller for Technical Committee Members only) in three International Competitions.
- d) Seminar requirements:
  - (i) have completed, during the four seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Judges Seminar for first listing or re-listing of Judges attended in person,
  - (ii) completes an ISU Seminar for first listing as International Referees.
- e) Examination: passes successfully the ISU Examination to become an International Referee.

2. **To be eligible for annual re-listing as an International Referee, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**

- a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination.
- b) Service: have served, during the three seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination as a Referee, Judge, Trial Judge or Technical Controller in one International Competition).
- c) Seminar requirements: has to fulfill one of the following requirements:
  - i) have completed, during the four seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Seminar for International Referees attended in person.
  - ii) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Seminar of International Referees organized and controlled by the Technical Committee(s) attended online.
  - iii) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU test for re-listing as International Referee organized and controlled by the Technical Committee(s) attended online.
- d) Consequences of not meeting the service and/or seminar attendance requirements are listed in Rule 827, paragraph 6.

3. **To be eligible for first listing as an ISU Referee, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**

- a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination.
- b) Background:
  - (i) have been included both as ISU Judge and International Referee in the four consecutive annual ISU Communications of Officials immediately preceding the nomination;
  - (ii) have the highest knowledge of the discipline concerned;
  - (iii) possess good communication skills;
  - (iv) be able to take directions and work within a team environment.
- c) Service: have served, during the four seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination preceding the nomination
  - (i) as a Referee, in at least two International Competitions.

- (ii) as a Judge (or as a Technical Controller for Technical Committee Members only), in at least three of the following competitions: ISU Events or an International Competition where the ISU appoints the Referee and Technical panel members. At least one of these Competitions must be an ISU Championships.
  - d) Seminar requirements:
    - (i) have completed, during the four seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination preceding the nomination, an ISU Judges Seminar for first listing or re-listing as Judges, attended in person.
    - (ii) completes an ISU Seminar for first listing as ISU Referees.
  - e) Examination: passes successfully the ISU Examination to become an ISU Referee.
4. **To be eligible for annual re-listing as an ISU Referee, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**
- a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination.
  - b) Service: have served, during the three seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination as a Referee, Judge, Trial Judge or Technical Controller in at least one International Competition.
  - c) Seminar requirements: has to fulfill one of the following requirements:
    - i) have completed, during the four seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Seminar for International Referees attended in person.
    - ii) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Seminar of International Referees/ISU organized and controlled by the Technical Committee attended online.
    - iii) have successfully completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Examination for re-listing as ISU Referees organized and controlled by the Technical Committee attended online.
    - iv) have conducted as Referee, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, the Initial Judges Meeting (together with the Chair or a member of the Technical Committee) and the Round Table Discussion of an ISU Championships or OWG or YOG.
  - d) Consequences of not meeting the service and/or seminar attendance requirements are listed in Rule 827, paragraph 6.

#### **Rule 829 Specific Requirements for Nomination and Listing of Judges**

1. **To be eligible for first listing as an International Judge, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**
- a) Age: have reached the age of twenty-four but not the age of sixty before July 1st the calendar year of the nomination. If a Judge is already on the ISU list of International or ISU Judges/Referees for another ISU Figure Skating discipline, the age limit of sixty does not apply.
  - b) Seminar requirements:
    - i) have completed, during the four seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Judges Seminar attended in person,
    - ii) completes an ISU Seminar for first listing as International Judge immediately before the examination.
  - c) Examination: passes successfully the written/verbal part and practical part of the ISU Examination to become an International Judge.

2. **To be eligible for annual re-listing as an International Judge, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**
  - a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination.
  - b) Service: have served, during the three seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination as a Referee, Judge, Trial Judge, Technical Controller in one International Competition.
  - c) Seminar requirements: has to fulfill one of the following requirements:
    - i) have completed, during the four seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Seminar for International Judges attended in person.
    - ii) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Seminar of International Judges organized and controlled by the Technical Committee attended online.
    - iii) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Examination for re-listing as International Judge organized and controlled by the Technical Committee attended online.
  - d) Consequences of not meeting the service and/or seminar attendance requirements are listed in Rule 827, paragraph 6.
  
3. **To be eligible, for first listing as an ISU Judge, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**
  - a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination.
  - b) Examination: pass successfully the written/verbal part and practical part of the ISU Examination to become an ISU Judge.
  
4. **To be eligible for annual re-listing as an ISU Judge, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**
  - a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination.
  - b) Service: have served, during the three seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, as a Referee, Judge, Trial Judge, or Technical Controller in at least one International Competition.
  - c) Seminar requirements: has to fulfill one of the following requirements:
    - i) have completed, during the four seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Seminar for International Referees attended in person.
    - ii) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Seminar of International Referees/ISU organized and controlled by the Technical Committee attended online.
    - iii) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Examination for re-listing as ISU Referee organized and controlled by the Technical Committee attended online.
    - iv) have conducted as Referee, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, the Initial Judges Meeting (together with the Chair or a member of the Technical Committee) and the Round Table Discussion of an ISU Championships or OWG) or YOG.
  - d) Consequences of not meeting the service and/or seminar attendance requirements are listed in Rule 827, paragraph 6.

### Rule 830 ISU Seminars for Officials

1. ISU Members are required to apply for and to organize ISU in person Seminars covering the purposes of first listing as International and ISU Judges, re-listing as International and ISU Judges and re-listing as International and ISU Referees, either alone or in conjunction with another (other) ISU Member(s), when necessary. For the purpose of first listing as International Judge, Trial Judging must be included. The application for organizing such ISU Seminars must be made by the hosting ISU Member to the ISU Office with a copy to the Chair of the Technical Committee not later than January 1st.
2. The dates and locations of ISU Seminars for Officials, as well as their purposes regarding seminar attendance requirements, are announced in ISU Communications.
3. Applications to complete ISU Seminars for Officials can be made:
  - a) for ISU Seminars for first listing: by their ISU Members (Technical Specialists also by the Technical Committee).
  - b) for ISU Seminars for re-listing as ISU and International Officials: by their ISU Members or in the case of online learning modules/tests, by individual themselves.
4. The nomination of Officials for participation in an ISU Seminar for Technical Controllers or Technical Specialists and/or the ISU Examination to become a Technical Controller or a Technical Specialist requires the initial confirmation of the Technical Committee and needs to be presented to the ISU Vice President Figure Skating for final confirmation.
5. To consider the activity as a Referee of an ISU Championship, as an ISU Seminar requirement for re-listing as Referee the following is required:
  - a) the Initial Judges Meeting conducted by the Referee together with the Chair or a Member of the Technical Committee;
  - b) the Round Table Discussion must be conducted by the Referee;
  - c) the activity as a Referee for these Championships is considered acceptable by the Technical Committee.
6. The Initial Judges Meeting (if conducted by the Referee together with the Chair or a member of the Technical Committee) and the Round Table Discussion of an ISU Synchronized Skating Championships form together an ISU Seminar requirement for re-listing of Judge only and under condition they had no assessment (not for re-listing as Referee and not for promotion of Referees and Judges).
7. Serving in an ISU Synchronized Skating Championships as a Technical Controller (respectively as a Technical Specialist) with a mini-seminar:
  - a) conducted the Initial Technical Panel Meeting together with the Chair or a member of the Technical Committee prior and after the competition,
  - b) concluded by a report prepared by the officiating Technical Controllers, and sent to the ISU Office,counts as an ISU Seminar requirement for re-listing as Technical Controller (respectively as Technical Specialist).
8. Serving as a moderator in an ISU Seminar for Officials in the respective qualification of Referee, Judge, Technical Controller or Technical Specialist meets the seminar requirements for re-listing in that qualification.

9. Seminar attended online and online recertification tests, organized and controlled by the Technical Committee, can be also valid to fulfill the requirements for the re-listing requirements for Referee, Judges, Technical Controllers and Technical Specialists (Not for promotion).
10. Taking part in any examination for first listing or promotion will be considered as a valid seminar requirement for re-listing only for the category and disciplines related to the examination for 2 seasons.

## **2. Appointment of Officials to Competitions**

### **Rule 831 Appointment of Officials to Competitions in General**

1. Article 14.3 CER applies.
2. a) As far as applicable, for ISU Events, the OWG and the YOG, the Referee, Technical Controller and the Technical Specialists must not be from the same ISU Member and all must be designated ISU and are appointed by the ISU following a procedure laid down by an ISU Communication.  
b) As far as applicable, for International Competitions, if possible, the Technical Controller and the Technical Specialists must not be from the same ISU Member. Article 14.2.1 CER applies. As an exception in extenuating circumstances, one national Technical Specialist or one national Data or Replay Operator from the host ISU Member may be used as Technical Specialist or Data or Replay Operator. In this case, this Technical Specialist or Data or Replay Operator must be designated to represent his ISU Member.
3. Where applicable, hosting ISU Members of International Competitions must do their utmost, in composing the panels of Judges, to secure representation on the panels of Judges from as many participating ISU Members as possible. However, no ISU Member can have the majority of the Judges on any panel. As an exception in extenuating circumstances, if the number of the Judges present is insufficient to compose the panel; one national Judge from the hosting ISU Member may be used provided that Judge has been trained in the use of the ISU Judging System.
4. a) In International Competitions the minimum age of National officials acting in the categories Basic Novice and Advanced Novice shall be twenty-one years.  
b) In International Competitions the maximum age of National officials acting in the categories Basic Novice and Advanced Novice shall be seventy-five years.

### **Rule 832 Appointments of Officials to ISU Championships**

1. Article 14.3 CER applies.
2. The hosting ISU Member may recommend serving not more than one of its own Referees/Technical Controllers/Technical Specialists for Synchronized Skating, including those who are also ISU Office Holders. Such recommendation must be submitted to the ISU Office not later than May 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. The selected Referees, Technical Controllers and Technical Specialists, Data and Replay Operators and OAC members must be contacted by the hosting ISU Member not less than 60 days before the start of the Championships.

4. A member of the Organizing Committee of an ISU Championships may not serve as a Referee, Technical Controller, Technical Specialist, Data & Replay Operator, TPAG and OAC member or Judge at the Championship concerned.

### **Rule 833 Judges Appointment and Draws for ISU Championships**

1. For all ISU Synchronized Skating Championships, the panel of Judges shall consist only of Judges on the current lists of ISU Judges and all Judges must be designated ISU and are appointed as provided by article 14.5 CER where applicable following an ISU pre-selection procedure as specified by an ISU Communication.
2. Each ISU Member, must enter annually by October 1<sup>st</sup> Judges by number only, and indicate with the entry, in which ISU Synchronized Skating Championships they intend to participate in the respective draw ceremony.  
The entries must be made for the following ISU Events from ISU Members according to paragraph 3 below:
  - a) ISU Synchronized Skating World Championships (Synchro12-16);
  - b) ISU Synchronized Skating World Championships (Synchro9);
  - c) ISU Synchronized Skating Junior World Championships (Synchro12-16);
  - d) ISU Synchronized Skating Junior World Championships (Synchro9).
3. Principles of Entries and Restrictions
  - a) Each ISU Member may enter a Judge by number (not by name) in the Event in which the Judges of this ISU Member are qualified to judge and in which that ISU Member has participated with at least one Team in the preceding ISU Synchronized Skating World Championships/ISU Synchronized Skating World Junior Championships, who has finished at least one Segment of the competition.
  - b) The ISU Members will enter with their Judges' name(s) for the ISU Synchronized Skating World Championships and the ISU Synchronized Skating Junior World Championships including a substitute Judge, in which they have been drawn, 28 days prior to the first Judges Meeting of the ISU Synchronized Skating World Championships and the ISU Synchronized Skating Junior World Championships concerned.
  - c) Any necessary changes of the Judges nominated must be communicated by the fastest electronic means to the Vice President for Figure Skating, to the ISU Office and to the Organizing Committee.
  - d) A Judge nominated by the ISU Member, who is present and available, must serve if drawn.
  - e) The ISU President or the ISU Vice President Figure Skating may update this restriction under paragraph a) above for any Championships in which not enough Judges are available to compose the panels of Judges.
4. Draw Procedure
  - a) The draw procedure of the panels of Judges for all ISU Synchronized Skating Championships will take place annually between October 1<sup>st</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>. The draw is open to all ISU Members who may send one Representative at their own expense. The draw shall take place in Switzerland in the presence of a representative of the ISU Integrity Unit. The ISU President will appoint the person(s) who will conduct the draw.
  - b) Each panel of Judges in Synchro12-16 will consist of a maximum of nine Judges but not less than eight Judges. For Synchro9 see Rule 6.
  - c) There will be a separate draw for the panel of Judges for each Segment of each Championships (Short Program, Free Skating in Synchro12-16), at the main draw as to paragraph 4.a) above and on site of the Championships concerned.

- d) The draw procedure of each ISU Championships where applicable is limited to Judges pre-selected by the ISU according to a procedure laid down by an ISU Communication and is explained separately;
  - e) The seating order of the Judging Panel shall be conducted manually by the Referee of the discipline in the Judges room for each Segment of the event 45 minutes before the start of the Segment.
5. ISU Synchronized Skating World Championships and the ISU Synchronized Skating Junior World Championships in Synchro 12-16
- a) All ISU Members who have entered according to the rules with Judges for the respective ISU Synchronized Skating Championships will participate in the draws for the composition of the panel of Judges (see paragraph 2 a), b) above).
  - b) For the respective Championships thirteen ISU Members are drawn amongst the ISU Members.
  - c) If there are not enough ISU Members available, there will be an additional draw amongst all ISU Members available and willing to serve but not yet represented in the panel concerned, to complete the panel of Judges with up to thirteen Judges.
  - d) On the site of the respective Championships, an open random draw will be conducted by the Referee 45 minutes prior to the skating of each Segment in the presence of all thirteen Judges drawn for the respective Championships, to complete the panel of nine Judges.
  - e) For the first Segment (Short Program) nine Judges will be drawn from all thirteen Judges drawn for the Championships. The seating order will be identical to the order the Judges are drawn.
  - f) At the respective Championships, for the second Segment (Free Skating), the four Judges not drawn for the first Segment will automatically be assigned to be in the panel of nine Judges for the second Segment and all other Judges serving already in the first Segment will participate in the draw to complete the panel of nine Judges. A separate draw will be held for the seating order of the nine Judges.
  - g) If at the time of the respective Championships, if Judges drawn and entered by name are not present, and their entered substitute Judge is not available, they will not be substituted by another Judge from the same ISU Member, who was not entered as a substitute Judge. A separate draw amongst all Judges present and available, but not represented already in the particular panel will complete the panel to the possible maximum of nine Judges if needed.
  - h) If there still are not enough ISU Members available to draw up to four Judges for the second Segment as to paragraph 4 c) above, only those Judges, who are remaining, will be considered and the draw on site for the completion of the panel of Judges will be made accordingly.
  - i) The ISU President may, in exceptional cases, authorize modifications in the application of this rule. If the ISU President is not reachable in a timely fashion, the ISU Vice President for Figure Skating may authorize such modifications in exceptional circumstances. On site of a respective Championship, if both the ISU President and the ISU Vice President for Figure Skating are not present, then the ISU Representative may authorize such modifications in exceptional circumstances.
  - j) For post entries relating to all deadlines included in this rule, article 10.2.6 CER applies.
6. ISU Synchronized Skating World Championships and ISU Synchronized Skating Junior World Championships in Synchro9  
Paragraph 5 above applies as far as reasonable and feasible. The details are laid down in an ISU Communication.

### **3. Duties and Powers of Officials**

#### **Rule 834 General and Specific Duties and Powers**

##### **General**

- a) The category of Officials (“ISU” or “International”) able to officiate at the different ISU sanctioned events and related restrictions are described in Article 14.2.1 CER.
- b) ISU Officials in Synchronized Skating are automatically entitled to serve as International Officials of the same function in this discipline.
- c) ISU Referees in Synchronized Skating are automatically entitled to serve as ISU or International Judges in this discipline.
- d) International Referees in Synchronized Skating are automatically entitled to serve as International Judges in this discipline.
- e) Officials must adhere fully to the ISU Code of Ethics.
- f) Officials must:
  - (i) keep themselves fully informed about all matters concerning the performance of their duties in the current CER and Sports Rules, ISU Communications and Manuals, Handbooks and Booklets and all updates published on the ISU website;
  - (ii) have a satisfactory standard of eyesight, hearing and general physical condition in order to perform their duties;
  - (iii) comport themselves with discretion as ISU appointed Officials;
  - (iv) not show bias for or against any Team on any grounds;
  - (v) be completely impartial and neutral at all times;
  - (vi) base their marks and decisions only on the performance and not be influenced by reputation or past performance;
  - (vii) disregard public applause or disapproval;
  - (viii) not discuss their marks or decisions and marks or decisions of other Officials during the competition with any person other than the Referee and/or, for members of the Technical Panel only, the other members of the Technical Panel of the part of the discipline in which they are serving;
  - (ix) not serve as television commentator nor engage in communication with the media, television, or others except through the Referee of the part of the Competition in which they are serving;
  - (x) Any form of electronic communication devices such as mobile phones, tablets or smart watches must be switched off while the officials are on the officials’ stand. There will be an exception when the Technical Panels need to refer to the digital documents. Devices such as tablets may be used but all electronic communication functions must be disabled.
  - (xi) not act as a Team Leader (or Assistant) in ISU Synchronized Skating Championships in the same season during which they serve as Referee, Judge, Technical Controller, Technical Specialist or OAC member in ISU Synchronized Skating Championships.
  - (xii) No official participating in an International Figure Skating event in any capacity may make any negative comment to the public concerning such event.

##### **1. Duties and powers of the Referee**

- a) checks the observance of all eligibility Rules, the ISU clearance certificates and the accuracy of calculation software unless the ISU Event Manager is present;
- b) together with the medical advisor/competition physician, approves any medical appliances containing metal or hard plastic in advance of the competition (see Article 17.8 CER);
- c) conducts all the draws for the starting order;

- d) manages the panel of Judges (including ensuring that they do not, while on the Judges stand, bring notes from previously awarded scores or any form of electronic communication, nor communicate with one another or indicate errors by action or sound, nor look at marks being input by Judges sitting alongside them) and acts as the responsible spokesperson of the Officials should the need arise;
- e) conducts the Initial Judges Meeting (see Rule 835) and a meeting with the Judges prior to every Segment of an event according to the ISU guidelines;
- f) checks the compliance of warm up periods with Rule 852;
- g) times the duration needed by the Competitors/Team to take the starting position and decide upon subsequent possible withdrawal (see Rules 853 paragraph 4 and 811);
- h) gives a signal to the person in charge of music to start the music of the Team;
- i) time with the assistance of a Timekeeper (see Rule 801) the program as skated, the possible interruptions according to Rule 856 paragraph 1. l);
- j) takes necessary actions related to delayed start or restart as per Rule 822, including instructing the person in charge of music to stop or restart the music of a Competitors/Team;
- k) decides whether the condition of the ice permits the holding of the event;
- l) decides upon all protests in the event concerned;
- m) alters the shape and size of the skating surface if unfavorable circumstances arise;
- n) accepts in agreement with the hosting ISU Member or organizing affiliated Club, another rink for the holding of the event;
- o) decides upon the following deductions according to Rule 856 paragraph 1. l): time violations, interruptions of the program, music violations, part of the costume/decoration falls on the ice;
- p) in Synchro12-16, together with the Judges Panel decides upon the deductions according to Rule 856, paragraph 1. l) for the violation of the following requirements or restrictions: costume, props (including feathers/headpiece). Those deductions are applied according to the opinion of the majority of the panel which includes all the Judges and the Referee. No deduction is made in case of a 50:50 split vote;
- q) judges the complete event;
- r) suspends skating until the order is restored in case the public interrupts the competition or interferes with its orderly conduct;
- s) excludes Teams from the event, if necessary;
- t) removes Judge(s) from the panel, if necessary and based on important and valid reasons;
- u) forbids any coach at any time during the course of the Championships or Competitions to be on any part of the ice surface of the rink on which the Championships or Competitions is taking place;
- v) decides any matter concerning breaches of the ISU Constitution or Regulations;
- w) moderates the Round Table Discussion according to ISU guidelines (See Rule 835);
- x) prepares the Report (online or using the electronic form) on the event according to ISU guidelines (See Rule 836).

## **2. Duties of the Judges**

- a) use the whole range of marks;
- b) mark independently and while judging do not converse with one another or indicate errors by action or sound;
- c) do not use previously prepared marks;
- d) in Synchro12-16, together with the Referee decide upon the deductions according to Rule 856, paragraph 1.l) for the violations of the following requirements or restrictions: costume, props (including feathers/headpiece); those deductions are applied according to the opinion of the majority of the Panel which includes all the Judges and the Referee. No deduction is made in case of a 50:50 split vote;

- e) attend the Initial Judges Meeting (see Rule 835) and the meeting held by the Referee prior to every Segment of an event according to the ISU guidelines;
- f) attend the Round Table Discussion moderated by the Referee according to ISU guidelines (see Rule 835).

### **Rule 835 Meetings at Competitions for Referees and Judges**

#### **1. Initial Judges Meeting and Pre-Event Meeting at ISU Championships, ISU Events, Olympic Winter Games and Winter Youth Olympic Games**

Judges at ISU Championships, ISU Events, OWG and YOG must attend an Initial Judges Meeting moderated by the Referee, together with the Chair or a member of the Technical Committee, if present, and, if applicable, the Technical Controller, held before the competition starts, and a Pre-Event Meeting moderated by the Referee immediately preceding the beginning of the competition.

In the Initial Judges Meeting, the moderators must draw to the attention of the Judges in brief summary the Rules relating to the duties of Judges and the marking of Synchronized Skating with special attention being paid to any changes in Rules or in their interpretation or clarification that have been officially published. In the Pre-Event Meeting the focus shall be on the essentials of the Elements of the respective Segment of competition.

For the purpose of Rule 830 paragraph 5, this meeting must be moderated by the Referee, together with the Chair or a member of the Technical Committee.

#### **2. Judges Meeting at International Competitions**

Judges at International Competitions must attend a Judges Meeting to be held immediately before the beginning of the competition. The exact time and the format of this meeting will be determined by the Referee. However, this meeting shall include at least a brief summary of all topics to be covered in the Initial Judges Meeting and the Pre-Event Meeting of ISU Championships, ISU Events and OWG.

#### **3. Round Table Discussion**

Judges at International Competitions, ISU Championships, OWG and YOG must attend a closed meeting Round Table Discussion (RTD) with the Referee and, if applicable the Technical Controller, held as soon as possible after conclusion of each sub-discipline/category but not later than the following day of the discipline/category in question. The Referee is recommended to include video from the competition in the RTD. This is mandatory in ISU Events and recommended in International Competitions.

The following topics will be discussed during the meeting, with a purpose of feedback among Judges and to reach a consensus to assist the ISU for future judging guidelines:

- a) general quality of skating,
- b) range of points for Elements and each of the Program Components of selected Teams, without establishing a range of acceptable scores (this will be established by the OAC in accordance with the procedure established by the ISU Council),
- c) application and validity of current regulations,
- d) possible improvements to the marking guide, equipment, the print-outs and the flow of information both internally and externally.

During the discussion the Judges will be encouraged to express their opinions. The discussion will not be used to criticize individuals judging the discipline in question.

### **Rule 836 Reports**

1. The Referee shall prepare a report (online or using the electronic form) of the competition on a standard form, in which the following areas are to be identified:
  - a) standard of organization;
  - b) standard of skating in each Segment;
  - c) standard of judging and the ability of each judge to communicate his understanding of the rules and their applications;
  - d) summary of Round Table Discussion;
  - e) additional remarks (if necessary);
  - f) proposals for improvement;
  - g) correctness of the calculation setup (except for ISU Events);
  - h) documentation on withdrawals.

A report has to be written only if the competition category fulfils the requirements of an International Competition, i.e. more than one ISU Member took part. If this is not the case, the Referee must notify the ISU Office.
2. The Referee shall send his report within 14 days following the competition to the ISU Office.

Upon well-grounded request, the ISU Office may extend this time limit by a maximum of 14 days if compelling circumstances so warrant, provided the request has been sent to the ISU Office within the original time limit.

### **Rule 837 Return of Officials**

1. Officials who suspend their officiating at ISU Events or International Competitions for no longer than one season may resume officiating at these events without any additional requirements.
2. International Judges and Referees who suspend their officiating at the above-mentioned events for more than one season may resume officiating at events requiring International Judge/Referee qualification only after successfully completing an ISU in-person seminar during the season in which they intend to re-enter.
3. International Technical Panel Members (Technical Controllers and Technical Specialists) and International Data & Replay Operators who suspend their officiating at the above-mentioned events for more than one season may resume officiating at events requiring International qualification only after successfully completing the ISU in-person seminar during the season in which they intend to re-enter.
4. ISU Judges and Referees who suspend their officiating at the above-mentioned events for more than one season may resume officiating at events requiring ISU Judge/Referee qualification only after successfully completing an in-person judges' seminar during the season of re-entry and serving as a judge at an International Competition.
5. ISU Technical Panel Members (Technical Controllers and Technical Specialists) and ISU Data & Replay Operators who suspend their officiating at the above mentioned events for more than one season may resume officiating at events requiring ISU qualification only after successfully completing the seminar with recertification during the season of re entry and serving as an ISU Technical Panel Member or ISU Data & Replay Operator at an International Competition.
6. Officials intending to return, or their ISU Members, must notify the ISU Office by April 15 of the relevant year. The application of the above conditions and the required assignments for reinstatement will be determined and communicated by the ISU Vice President and the ISU Office. All measures shall be taken to ensure the process is not unreasonably delayed.

## **4. Evaluation of Service by Officials**

### **Rule 838 Evaluation**

#### **1. Evaluation the Judges scores at ISU Events.**

- a) The OAC members shall prepare a report for each competition including the identification of errors and anomalies and suspected (national) bias in the Judges scores that, in the opinion the OAC members, must be considered as errors or (national) bias warranting an Assessment. They may also highlight instances of excellent performance of a Judge/of Judges. This report shall be made available without delay to the Technical Committee through the ISU Office.
- b) The Technical Committee shall proceed with its evaluation of the OAC reports and send its own report to the ISU Office as soon as possible. If the Technical Committee agrees with the OAC's assessment of outstanding judging, it may provide positive feedback to the respective Judge or Judges through any means it considers appropriate. Where the Committee deems informal constructive feedback sufficient, it shall notify the Vice President Figure Skating and recommend the issuance of a Letter of Advice. If the Technical Committee disagrees on any determination of errors and/or indications of (national) bias by the OAC members, it shall consult them to achieve a consensus. If a disagreement prevails, the Vice President Figure Skating will have the final decision.
- c) If the Technical Committee identifies anomalies in Judges scores which the OAC members have not evaluated it shall inform the Vice President Figure Skating who shall decide whether these anomalies are to be considered as determined errors and/or (national) bias.
- d) The Technical Committee shall evaluate cases of errors and/or national bias in a Judge's score for possible Assessment and propose to the Vice President Figure Skating to issue Letters of Warning or Assessments in accordance with paragraph 5 below and the criteria established in the related Rules of Procedure published in an ISU Communication.

#### **2. Evaluation of reports of Referees and reports of Technical Controllers**

The Technical Committee shall rate the quality of the reports of the Referees and of the reports of the Technical Controller for all ISU Events and International Competitions based on documentation delivered according to Rule 923, as very good, good, acceptable/average, mediocre or poor. The respective qualification shall be added to the records of the concerned Referees and Technical Controllers. If any report is rated as poor the Technical Committee shall investigate the matter and compile a report containing its recommendation on the outcome, which will be forwarded to the Vice President Figure Skating for final determination. Depending on the severity of the poor execution of duties established, either a Letter of Warning or an Assessment shall be issued.

#### **3. Assessments**

- a) Erroneous marking, national bias, being part of the majority in a wrong decision of the Technical Panel involving a striking difference per Team, wrong decisions and wrong conduct of a competition by the Referee, poor reports by the Referee or by the Technical Controller and wrong operations by Data & Replay Operators shall be subject to Letters of Advice and/or Letters of Warning and/or Assessments.
- b) Letters of Advice or Letters of Warning or Assessments are issued by the Vice President Figure Skating.

- c) In cases of erroneous marking, the consequences shall vary depending on severity: (1) a Letter of Advice; (2) a Letter of Warning; (3) an Assessment 1 with the obligation to successfully complete the next Judges' seminar; or (4) an Assessment 2.
  - (i) If an Assessment 2 is issued to an ISU Official, that Official shall not be permitted to act as an ISU Official for the remainder of the current season and during the following season at ISU Championships, the OWG, and the YOG, if applicable. If an Assessment 2 is issued to an International Official, that Official shall not be permitted to act as an International Official for the remainder of the current season and during the following season at the Junior Grand Prix and Final, the Grand Prix and Final, and the Challenger Series.
  - (ii) An accumulation of two Letters of Warning issued to the same Official shall result in an Assessment 1. An accumulation of more than two Letters of Warning issued to the same Official shall result in an Assessment 2.
- d) The same consequences apply to all other cases enumerated in paragraph 3 a) above. However, in particularly serious cases, or where more than three Letters of Warning or an Assessment 2 have previously been issued to the same Official, an Assessment 3 shall be imposed.
- e) In cases of a pattern of judging (collusion), demonstrated by the OAC across three Events during the current and the two preceding seasons, and confirmed by the Technical Committee, all involved Judges shall be issued an Assessment 2. The consequence is disqualification from judging for two seasons at ISU Championships, as well as the OWG and YOG of the relevant Olympic cycle. In the event of a second proven pattern of judging (collusion), an Assessment 3 shall be imposed. In such cases, any ISU Judge involved shall be permanently removed from the ISU List.

#### **4. Demotions**

- a) In the event of an Assessment 3, an ISU Official shall be demoted to the list of International Officials, and an International Official shall be removed from their respective list. To be reinstated, the ISU or International Official must successfully pass an ISU Examination following a mandatory waiting period of one season.
- b) Before a demotion is decided, the following procedure shall be followed:  
If an Assessment 3 is issued, the Official concerned and his ISU Member shall be notified through the ISU Office about his possible demotion.  
The Official may, within 5 days upon receipt of the notification, contest a demotion by challenging any of its underlying Assessments and request a hearing before the Vice President Figure Skating, one additional Council member of the Figure Skating Branch and the chair of the Technical Committee.

If a hearing is requested it shall be held without delay, at a date and time to be determined by the hearing body, if possible and unless the hearing body considers an in-person hearing as necessary due to special circumstances, by means of a video-conference.

At the hearing the Official shall be given the opportunity to explain why, in his opinion, a demotion and the underlying Assessments, in his view, is/were not justified. For supporting his explanations, he may use available video and/or audio recordings.

Any expenses related to the hearing shall generally be for the Official's account. However, if the hearing body has called for an in-person hearing and if any of the contested Assessment is revoked travel board and lodging expenses of the Official shall be borne by the ISU.

**5. Effectiveness and duration of validity of Assessments and demotion**

- a) An Assessment or a demotion shall be effective only for the concerned qualification, i.e. Referee, Judge, Technical Controller, Technical Specialist or Data & Replay Operator.
- b) Assessments and demotions concerning Judges, Technical Controllers and Technical Specialists shall be effective only for Synchronized Skating.
- c) Assessments and demotions of Referees and Data & Replay Operators shall be effective for all disciplines, i.e. Synchronized Skating, Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance.
- d) For Referees Assessments received in different disciplines are added.
- e) For Technical Specialists acting also as Technical Controller (and vice versa) Assessments received in these different functions are added.
- f) Each Assessment shall remain valid for the current season plus additional two seasons and shall count during such period of time towards an accumulation of Assessments.
- g) A demotion shall remain valid until the concerned Official is reinstated in the position formerly held by having fulfilled the requirements for first appointment to this position, as per Rules 826 to 829 and 859 to 862.
- h) If the majority of Judges (or Referees when serving as Judges) of an ISU Member have been suspended for misconduct and/or demoted subsequently to Assessments and/or warranted Assessments over a period of several years, the Council may decide that this ISU Member will be warned or will lose the right to appoint Judges to ISU Events and/or OWG and/or YOG and/or International Competitions for such a period as the Council may decide. In the exercise of this power, however, the Council shall not generally take into consideration cases having occurred more than five years before the decision.

**6. Notification of Letters of Advice, Warning, Assessments and Demotions**

Notifications of a Letter of Advice or Letter of Warning or an Assessment shall be issued by the ISU Office to the Official concerned, with copies provided to the Official's ISU Member, the Vice President Figure Skating and the Technical Committee

**7. Sanctions for violations of the Duties of Officials and ethical offenses**

- a) Any violation of the Duties of Officials as defined in Rules 834 and 864, erroneous marking, wrong decisions by Technical Panels, wrong operations of Data & Replay Operators, wrong decisions or wrong conduct of competitions by Referees and poor reports are subject to Assessment (Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 above). Any other violations of the Duties of Officials, including violations of the ISU Code of Ethics, if committed with any degree of fault (intent, gross negligence, recklessness, carelessness etc.) are disciplinary/ethical by nature and are submitted to the ISU Integrity Unit for further determination.
- b) Any violation of the Duties of Officials, which is at the same time a violation of the ISU Code of Ethics, can also be submitted to the ISU Integrity Unit for further determination.
- c) Any violation of the ISU Code of Ethics, if committed with any degree of fault more serious than minor negligence is submitted to the ISU submitted to the ISU Integrity Unit for further determination.

In case of a disciplinary/ethical violation, committed with minor negligence, by any Official who has never been subject to any disciplinary sanctions and/or any Letter of Warning before, the Vice President Figure Skating after consultation of the respective Technical Committee shall refer the case to the ISU Integrity Unit for determining whether a Letter of Warning shall be issued, making mention of the violation in question and informing the Official that any further disciplinary/ethical violation of the Duties of Officials might lead to a Statement of Complaint to the Disciplinary Commission.

Any further disciplinary/ethical violation of the Duties of Officials shall be submitted to the ISU Integrity Unit for a Statement of Complaint to the Disciplinary Commission, except for particularly minor cases for which the imposing of any disciplinary sanction would obviously be disproportionate; in such cases (a) further Letter(s) of Warning shall be issued.

- d) Cases of disciplinary/ethical violations of the Duties of Officials and/or ethical offenses shall be referred by the Vice-President Figure Skating to the ISU Integrity Unit for submission of a Statement of Complaint to the Disciplinary Commission.
- e) Statements of Complaint shall be based on the own observations of the filing body and/or reports received from any third person, in particular but not limited to reports received from Referees, members of Panel of Judges, members of Technical Panels.

**Size of Starting Groups for International Competitions  
and ISU Championships in Synchro12 – 16**

**(see charts I and II)  
Applies to Rules 839 and 840**

Short Programs and Novice Free Skating: maximum of six  
 Junior and Senior Free Skating: maximum of five.

**I. Size of Starting Order Groups Rule 839**

Number of Teams	Short Program for Junior & Senior Synchro12-16 Free Skating Novice
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	maximum of 6
2	1 + 1
3	1 + 2
4	2 + 2
5	2 + 3
6	3 + 3
7	3 + 4
8	4 + 4
9	4 + 5
10	5 + 5
11	5 + 6
12	6 + 6
13	4 + 4 + 5
14	4 + 5 + 5
15	5 + 5 + 5
16	5 + 5 + 6
17	5 + 6 + 6
18	6 + 6 + 6
19	4 + 5 + 5 + 5
20	5 + 5 + 5 + 5
21	5 + 5 + 5 + 6
22	5 + 5 + 6 + 6
23	5 + 6 + 6 + 6
24	6 + 6 + 6 + 6
25	5 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 5
26	5 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 6
27	5 + 5 + 5 + 6 + 6
28	5 + 5 + 6 + 6 + 6
29	5 + 6 + 6 + 6 + 6
30	6 + 6 + 6 + 6 + 6
31	5 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 6
32	5 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 6 + 6
33	5 + 5 + 5 + 6 + 6 + 6
34	5 + 5 + 6 + 6 + 6 + 6
35	5 + 6 + 6 + 6 + 6 + 6
36	6 + 6 + 6 + 6 + 6 + 6

## II. Size of Starting Order Groups Rule 840

Number of Teams                      Free Skating Junior & Senior Synchro12-16

	maximum of 5
2	1+1
3	1+2
4	2+2
5	2+3
6	3+3
7	3+4
8	4+4
9	4+5
10	5+5
11	3+4+4
12	4+4+4
13	4+4+5
14	4+5+5
15	5+5+5
16	4+4+4+4
17	4+4+4+5
18	4+4+5+5
19	4+5+5+5
20	5+5+5+5
21	4+4+4+4+5
22	4+4+4+5+5
23	4+4+5+5+5
24	4+5+5+5+5
25	5+5+5+5+5
26	4+4+4+4+5+5
27	4+4+4+5+5+5
28	4+4+5+5+5+5
29	4+5+5+5+5+5
30	5+5+5+5+5+5
31	4+4+4+4+5+5+5
32	4+4+4+5+5+5+5
33	4+4+5+5+5+5+5
34	4+5+5+5+5+5+5
35	5+5+5+5+5+5+5

## C. Technical Definitions

### Rule 841 Terms, Elements, Features, Requirements

#### 1. GENERAL TERMS

##### **Additional Features**

Technical content that increases the difficulty of an Element. Additional Features are divided into groups according to their difficulty which are issued in an ISU Communication.

##### **Axis**

The imaginary line(s) which divide the ice surface (long axis, short axis, diagonal axis). A turn(s) or pattern(s) is executed on an axis.

##### **Axis of Intersection**

Where the Skaters are passing/intersecting with one another. In the case of a collapsing Intersection (box, triangle etc.) it is defined as being the area within the shape once the corners have started to intersect and before the Skaters exit the Intersection and pass through at the final corners.

##### **Configuration**

Number of lines, spokes or circles in the Element.

##### **Connections**

Sections of the program that occurs within Elements, during entrances and exits of Elements, as connecting Elements and executed in-between the required/optional Elements.

##### **Difficulty Groups of Elements**

All Elements are divided into groups of difficulty based on the number of Features included. Each year or every second year an ISU Communication may be issued.

##### **Element**

A component that is part of a Short Program and Free Skating. Elements are divided into groups of difficulty.

##### **Features**

Technical content that increases the difficulty of an Element which may become part of the Difficulty Group of an Element.

Each season, the Features for each Element will be updated and published in an ISU Communication.

##### **Highlighting**

When one Skater performs a movement that is away from and in contrast with the rest of the Team.

##### **Holds**

Basket weave, catch, hand, elbow, shoulder and no hold are some examples of different connected holds that may be used.

##### **Innovative Movement (IM)**

Creative and/or unexpected movement(s), that are not part of the skating repertoire.

##### **Line/Spoke**

A line/spoke is formed when two points are connected so it must have a minimum of two Skaters.

##### **Series/Combination of Turns**

Consists of at least two different types of turns executed on one foot where the exit edge of one turn is the entry edge of the next turn.

##### **Shape**

Basic Element Shapes are: Block, Circle, Line, and Wheel.

##### **Skating Direction**

Skating either forwards or backwards.

##### **Skating Movement (SM)**

Free Skating Elements (fe) and/or Free Skating Moves (fm)

**Sub-Grouping**

A division of the Team into several smaller groups.

**Syncopated Choreography**

Choreography or Elements that have a rhythmic time delay in movement.

**Stationary**

Any Element or Free Skating Element executed on one spot who may or may not be rotating.

**Stopping**

Skaters are standing in one place without any movement.

**2. TURNS/STEPS/LINKING STEPS****One Foot Turns**

A rotational movement in which the Skater moves from forward to backward or backward to forward using one foot and on an edge and axis

**Bracket** – A turn executed on one foot from an outside edge to an inside edge or an inside edge to an outside edge, with the exit curve continuing on the same lobe as the entry curve. The Skater turns in the direction opposite to the curve;

**Counter** – A turn executed on one foot from an outside edge to an outside edge or an inside edge to an inside edge, with the exit curve on a different lobe from the entry curve. The Skater turns in the direction opposite to the entry curve (i.e. in the direction of the exit curve);

**Rocker** – A turn executed on one foot from an outside edge to an outside edge or an inside edge to an inside edge, with the exit curve on a different lobe from the entry curve. The Skater turns in the direction of the entry curve;

**Three Turn** – A turn executed on one foot from an outside edge to an inside edge or an inside edge to an outside edge, with the exit curve continuing on the same lobe as the entry curve. The Skater turns in the direction of the curve;

**Twizzle**

A travelling turn executed on one foot, with one or more rotations, that quickly rotate with a continuous (uninterrupted) action. The weight remains on the skating foot with the free foot in any position during the turn.

Set of Twizzles: At least two Twizzles performed one after the other, the number of foot-placements permitted in between each Twizzles may be limited (see ISU Communication).

**Two Foot Turns**

A rotational movement from one foot to the other foot in which the Skater moves forward to backward or backward to forward

**Choctaw** - A turn from one foot to the other in which the entry and exit curve are of equal depth, the curve of the exit edge is opposite to that of the entry edge. The change of foot is from outside edge to inside edge or inside edge to outside edge.;

**Mohawk** - A turn from one foot to the other in which the entry and exit curves are continuous and of equal depth. The change of foot is from outside edge to outside edge or inside edge to inside edge.

**Steps**

The visible tracing on the ice that is executed on one or two feet. It may consist of an edge, change of edge or loop.

**Edge:** The visible tracing on the ice produced by a Skater skating on one foot that is on a distinct curve.

**Change of edge:** The visible tracing on the ice that changes from one distinct curve to another distinct curve with no change of foot.

**Loop:** A one foot movement where the Skater skates an oval pattern using the same edge. The entry and exit of the loop must cross.

### **Linking steps**

Steps performed between turns;

**Chasse** - A series of two edges (usually outside, inside) in which on the second edge the free foot is placed on the ice beside the skating foot, but not ahead of or behind it, and the free foot is lifted with the blade parallel to the ice;

**Cross Roll** - A roll started with the action of the free foot approaching the skating foot from the side so as to strike the ice almost at right angles to the skating foot, started forward with the feet crossed in front or backward with the feet crossed behind;

**Crossover** - A sequence of two steps (push + cross) in which the free foot crosses the skating foot completely before it is placed onto the ice;

**Flat** - The visible double tracing on the ice that is straight (imprinted by the Skater skating on one foot on both edges of the blade);

**Progressive/Run** - A step or sequence of steps in which the free foot passes the skating foot before it is placed on the ice, thereby bringing the new free foot off the ice trailing the new skating foot;

**Toe Steps** - A step where the Skaters move from one toe pick to the other toe pick without jumping with or without using rotations as they travel down the ice.

### **Terms used to describe turns, steps and linking steps**

**Different turns/step** - includes each of the listed types of turns and steps plus the four different methods of execution;

**Different types of turns and steps** - includes each of the listed turns and steps;

**Difficult turns/step** - consists of bracket, choctaw, counter, loop, outside mohawk, rocker, twizzles with two or more rotations;

**Listed turns and step** - consists of bracket, choctaw, counter, loop, mohawk, rocker, three turn, twizzles;

**Turning Method** - A technique in which a turn or step occurs using either the same/one lobe (bracket, three turn, twizzle) or using two different lobes (counter, rocker) during the entry and exit of each turn.

## **3. FREE SKATING ELEMENTS**

Free skating Elements are allowed in some Elements or as a connecting move between Elements to increase the difficulty of connections and add variety/complexity to the program.

### **Butterfly** (pair or individual)

The body is already in a nearly horizontal position at the take-off. The free leg makes a wide, powerful rotational swing upwards so that it is higher than the upper part of the body and head. During the flight and on the landing, the body remains in a horizontal position. There is no number of revolutions required after the landing.

**Illusion** - A quick rotational movement as the Skaters' head and upper body quickly lowers, at minimum, with the head and chest close to the supporting leg AND the free leg kicks higher than hip level.

**Jumps** - Movement during which both feet leave the ice.

**Listed Jumps** - jumps consisting of axel, flip, loop, lutz, salchow, split jump, toe loop, waltz jump.

**Non-listed Jumps** - All other Jumps not listed in paragraph a).

**Assisted Jumps** - Jumps in which a Skater(s) provides passive assistance to another Skater(s) in a non-supportive manner. The take-off must be done by the Skater who jumps. In this action there is a continuous ascending and descending movement.

The hands of a Skater(s) providing the passive assistance may rise higher than shoulder level height.

**Jump Combination** - Any number of combined jumps of any revolutions. In a jump combination the landing foot of a jump is the take-off foot of the next jump.

**Jump Sequence** - Any number of jumps of any revolutions that may be linked with non-listed jump, immediately following each other while maintaining the jump rhythm (knee); there can be no crossovers or stroking between jumps during the sequence.

**Throw Jumps** - Throw Jumps are partner assisted jumps in which one of the Skaters is thrown into the air by another Skater on the take-off and lands without assistance from the partner on a backward outside edge. A throw jump may have any number of revolutions.

### **Lifts**

An action in which Skater(s) are lifted to any height for 3 seconds or more either by the lifting Skaters or by the lifted Skater(s) themselves using body support from other Skaters. A lift(s) must be gliding/skating during all three phases: as they prepare, execute and set down the lift (except stationary lift(s)). The lift may rotate and/or be stationary. The lifted Skater must be set down and must continue to skate/glide except if otherwise stated in an ISU Communication or if the lift is the final pose of the program.

#### **Type of Lifts**

##### **Acrobatic Lifts**

- Are considered dangerous and therefore illegal.  
Positions in which:
  - the lifted Skater is held only by either the blade(s), foot (feet) or leg(s) and swung around; or
  - the lifted Skater(s) is sustained in a totally vertical position and is only supported by their blade, feet or lower legs (below knee level) with the top of their head towards the iceare considered dangerous and therefore illegal.
- Lifts where the lifted Skater is rotating around herself/himself are allowed, provided there is no sustained, totally vertical position with the top of the head towards the ice and the Skater is only supported by their blade, feet or lower legs (below knee level).

**Group Lift** - One or more Skaters is (are) lifted and sustained to any height by one or more Skater(s). A minimum of 3 Skaters must be involved in the Group Lift.

**Pair Lifts** - One Skater is lifted and sustained to any height by one other Skater.

### **Pivot**

#### **Death Spiral**

A Pair where one of the Skaters becomes the center point and the supported Skater is gliding around the center point. The Skater executing the gliding position must be skated on a clean edge with her/his body and head close to the ice surface; however, the Skater must not touch the ice with their head or assist themselves with the free hand or any part of the body. Variations of arm hold (holding by either one or both hands) and pivoting position are possible.

#### **Pair Pivot**

A Pair where one of the Skaters becomes the center point and the supported Skater is gliding around the center point. Variations of pivot and pivoting positions are possible.

## Spins

A spinning movement performed on one foot with a minimum of three revolutions. If the Spin has a change (foot, position, etc.), then two revolutions are required before and after the change.

### Types of Spins

**Solo Spins:** Skaters are spinning as individuals.

**Pair Spin:** Performed by two Skaters around a common axis. The Skaters may be in different spinning positions, and in any hold.

**Group Spin:** Performed by three or more Skaters, around a common axis. The Skaters may be in the same or different spinning positions, and in any hold.

### Types of Spinning Positions

**Camel Spin:** The Skater is spinning in a spiral position. The free leg (including the knee and foot) must be held at hip level or higher.

**Sit Spin:** The Skater is spinning in a sit position. The supporting leg must be bent at least a 90° angle. The thigh of the skating foot must be parallel to the ice surface.

**Upright Spin:** The Skater is spinning in an upright position. The arms and free foot may be held in a variety of positions.

### Variation of an Upright Spin

**Cross foot spin:** An upright spin position where both of Skater's feet are on the ice while spinning. The feet may be crossed in front or behind.

### Difficult Variation of an Upright Spin

A movement using the free leg or back, which has an effect on the balance of the main body core.

**Biellmann Spin:** The Skater's free foot is pulled, by one hand or both, from behind, to a position higher than the head and towards the top of the head close to the central axis of the Skater.

**Layback Spin:** The Skater is leaning backwards with the head leaning away from the core axis of the body. The body must show a definite arch in the back. The free leg may be in any position.

**Sideways Leaning Spin:** The Skater is leaning sideways with the torso at least a 45° angle from the core axis of the body.

**Upright Extension Spin:** A spin where the Skater's body remains upright with the free leg held at least at a 135° angle to the skating leg. The free leg may be held to the front or to the side and may be supported or unsupported.

### Flying Spins

Must "fly" during the entry of the spin. No previous rotation on the ice before take-off is permitted. The "flying position" may be executed in any position. A three turn executed before the flight does not demonstrate a flying spin.

### Un-sustained Lift

Un-sustained Lift in which one or more Skater(s) is (are) lifted and set down. The lifted Skater(s) must be elevated to any height for less than 3 seconds

### Vault

A rotation, in which a Skater(s) provides passive assistance to another Skater(s) who turns/revolves, head over heels (or vice versa) in a cartwheel or somersault action.

## 4. FREE SKATING MOVES (fm)

Are allowed to increase difficulty of connections and add variety/complexity to the program.

- (i) A "type" of listed fms in the ISU Communication (Difficulty Groups). Biellmann is considered a different type of fm than a Spread Eagle. Biellmann RFI is considered the same type as Biellmann RFO.

(ii) "Same free skating move/fm" is a term that includes one "type" of fm executed in the same position, on the same edge, on the same foot and in the same skating direction.

Each fm must be held in the position and on an edge for at least three seconds.

A fm with a change (change of edge, of free leg position, of rotational direction etc.) must be held for a minimum of two seconds before and after the change.

### **Types of Free Skating Moves:**

#### **One foot position**

##### **Biellmann**

The Skater glides forwards or backwards on an edge, the Skater's free foot is pulled by one hand or both hands from behind to a position higher than the head and towards the top of the head close to the central axis of the Skater.

##### **Charlotte**

A Charlotte is a glide either forwards or backwards on an edge or a flat. The Skaters' body must bend forward (minimum of 135°) from upright so that the head and chest is "close" to the supporting leg. The free leg and supporting leg should be straight with the free leg extended behind and held at a minimum of 135°. The free leg may be supported or unsupported.

##### **Hydroblading**

A low sit-like position that is counter balanced, where the supporting leg is bent to at least 90° (parallel to the ice) and the free leg and forearms are not resting on the ice surface. The hand(s) however, may touch the ice surface for support. The Skaters' torso, including the shoulders, are leaning far in towards the center of the circle and the free leg is placed to the outside of that circle. The move must be executed on an edge and on one foot.

##### **Spiral**

The Skater glides forward or backward, on an edge in arabesque position. The free leg (including the knee and foot) must be held higher than hip level supported (either by the same or another Skater) or unsupported. The position of free leg must be fully extended and may be backward, forward or sideways.

##### **Spiral Variation**

The Skater glides forward or backward on an edge in arabesque position. The free leg (including the knee and foot) must be held higher than hip level supported (either by the same or another Skater) or unsupported. The position of free leg may be bent and may be held to the back, front or side.

##### **Upright Extension**

The Skater glides on an edge. The Skaters' body remains upright with the free leg supported (either by the same or another Skater) at least at a 135° angle to the skating leg. The free leg may be held to the back, front or to the side.

#### **Two foot positions**

##### **Ina Bauer**

Two footed movement in which the Skater travels along the ice with one foot on a forward edge and the other foot on either the same or different backward edge, Each foot glides on parallel curves.

##### **Spread Eagle**

A two footed movement in which the Skater skates with one foot on a forward edge and the other on a matching backward edge on the same edge.

**Other positions****Lunge**

Movement either forward or backward on an edge or a flat in which the Skater travels along the ice with one supporting leg bent (with at least 90° between the thigh and shin of the skating leg) and other leg directly behind with the boot/blade touching the ice. The Skater's torso may be upright, bent forward, leaning backwards or to the side. The free leg may be straight or bent and may be held to the back or side. The free foot may be in any position.

**Shoot the Duck**

The move may be skated on an edge or a flat and on one foot or two feet. The Skaters must show a low position, where the supporting leg(s) is (are) bent to at least 90° (parallel to the ice). The Skaters' torso may be upright, bent forward. If on one foot, the free leg may be straight or bent and may be held to the front or to the side.

**Sliding movement**

Movement when a Skater(s) slides across the ice in a controlled manner. The Skater(s) may slide on one or both knees, their thigh or other parts of the body.

**5. DEFINITION OF ADDITIONAL FEATURES AND REQUIREMENTS****POINT OF INTERSECTION**

Type of movement/rotation that the Skaters perform at the Axis of Intersection.

**STEP SEQUENCE**

A combination of turns, steps, linking steps and short fms used as part of an Element. Use of crossovers must be kept at a minimum. During the Step Sequence Additional Feature, all Skaters must execute the same steps/turns in the same skating direction, on the same edge, at the same time, except to initiate or end a mirror image pattern.

**6. DEFINITION OF FEATURES AND REQUIREMENTS****Back-to-Back Approach**

Is shown when the Skaters' back (including shoulders and hips) are facing towards the Axis of Intersection, independently of the skating direction, during the entire Approach Phase. A pivoting entry with backward skating is also considered to be a back-to-back approach.

**Balancing Position (Lift)**

The position of the lifted Skater is stabilized mostly by their own strength. The lifted Skater's position becomes precarious and influences (affects) their balance.

**Body Movement**

Body Movement is the use of the body parts (arms, legs, head, torso) when executing the turns and linking steps. The core changes from the center balanced position and that movement has a significant impact of the body's weight distribution over the blade.

Different levels in space:

High: movements done above shoulders

Medium: movements done within shoulder to hip level

Lower: movements done below hip level.

**Change of Configuration**

The number of lines, spokes or circles changes during an Element. Skaters have to move to form a new configuration.

**Change of Element Shape**

Skaters change from one element's shape to a different element's shape.

**Change of Foot**

Skater(s) change from one foot to another foot. A change of foot may be executed in the form of a step over or jump.

**Change of Place**

The spokes/lines/Skaters change their order when compared to the start or when Skaters within a spoke/line change spot with each other.

**Change of Position**

Skater uses at least two different positions.

**Change of Relative Position**

Two separate configurations of the same and/or different elements change places with each other. The two configurations may pass each other, intersect or Skaters may change from one configuration to another.

**Change of Rotational Direction**

An element or movement performed first in one rotational direction and then in the opposite rotational direction. Clockwise and anti-clockwise or vice-versa.

**Change of Side**

Where a Skater begins on one side of another Skater and changes to the other side of that same Skater.

**Change of Type**

A Skater uses at least two different types of free skating move, free skating element or other movements as required separately for each season

**Choreographic Series**

Consists of

- Different skating movements;
- Different types of Turns;
- Different arm movements and body movement(s)

as stated in an Communication.

**Flexible Position (Lift)**

Flexible positions include but are not limited to: front split, side split, 135°, backward arch in a semi-circle or full circle.

**Interaction between Elements, Skaters and Shapes/ Configurations**

The different Elements, Skaters and Shapes/Configurations cross paths, intersect, circle, mirror, pass by or are connected to each other etc.

**Interlocking**

**Circle:** At least two circles rotating in opposite directions are linked together when individual Skaters in one circle pass in-between at least two consecutive individual Skaters of the other circle.

**Wheel:** At least two wheels rotating in opposite directions where a spoke of each wheel passes in-between two consecutive spokes of the other wheel(s).

**Intersecting**

Individual Skaters crisscross between other Individual Skater(s) either simultaneously or separately.

**Mirror Image Pattern**

Some Skaters of the Team use a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction and the other Skaters of the Team use the opposite direction at the same time (anti-clockwise or clockwise). It can be executed in an Element with half/half of the Team or one-third/two-third.

**Passing through**

Pair(s) and/or group(s) of Skaters crisscross between other pair(s) and/or group(s) of Skaters either simultaneously or separately.

**Pivoting**

A continuous action in one rotational direction when an individual Skater, Pair, Line or Block is rotating around a common center point. The common center point is permitted to remain stationary or progress across the ice.

**Change of Pivot Point**

In the Pivoting Block or Pivoting Line Elements/Shapes, when the pivot point changes from one end of the line to the other. The pivot point is permitted to progress through the line(s). Retrogression is not permitted during a change of pivot point. Skaters may not cross their own old tracks as the pivot point is changing ends.

**Self-supported Position (Lift)**

The lifted Skater is holding the majority of their own weight in any position. The lifting partner is providing passive assistance to the lifted Skater at any point.

**Travel**

A rotating Element/Shape is caused to move in a given direction or path for a required distance. The rotation and travel must occur at the same time. The path may be curved or straight.

**Weaving**

Skaters pass each other by moving side to side. For example, changing from an outer circle into a center circle or vice versa depending on where they start.

**7. DEFINITION OF ELEMENTS/SHAPES/FULL TEAM MOVEMENTS AND BASIC REQUIREMENTS**

All Element/Shape/Full Team Movements requirements are described considering a Team comprised of sixteen Skaters but can be adapted for teams of different numbers.

The Team must act as a unit during Elements/Shapes/Full Team Movements. All Skaters must attempt to participate to the shape(s)/configuration(s) or attempt the skating movements required for the different Elements/Shapes/Full Team Movements. Any reference herein to Elements will also be applied to respective Full Team Movements.

**Basic Elements/ Shapes must meet the following Basic Requirements described below.**

**Block (Artistic, Linear & Pivoting, Mixed and No Hold Elements/Shapes...)**

A block has a shape (closed or open) with all Skaters forming one block configuration with a minimum of three lines.

- **Closed Block**

A block shape that is outlined and filled in with Skaters.

- **Open Block**

A block shape that is only outlined with Skaters.

Basic Closed Block shapes are defined as follows, but not limited to:

**Three line, Four line et**

XXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXX

**Diamond**

XX  
XXX  
XXXXXX  
XXX  
XX

**Pyramid**

XX  
XXX  
XXXXX  
XXXXXX

**Pyramid**

X  
XXX  
XXXXX  
XXXXXXX

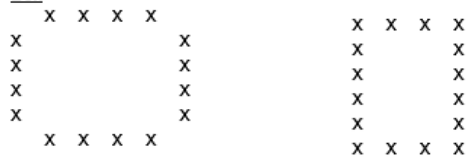
**Diamond** – The center line(s) in the block must be the longest.

**Pyramid** – The back line must be longer than the front line of a block (or vice versa). The line(s) in-between the front and back lines must not be longer than the “back” line or shorter than the “front” line.

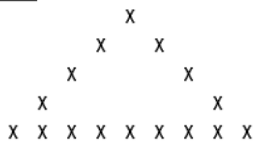
**Three or Four Lines** – Lines must be as equal as possible.

Basic Open Block shape is defined as follows but not limited to:

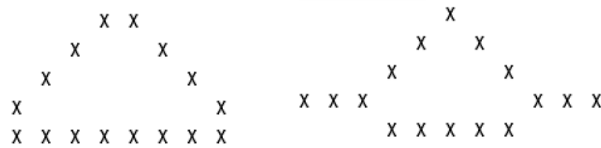
Box



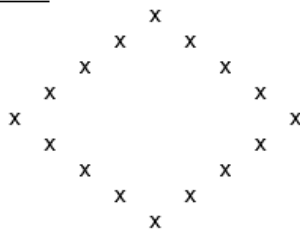
Pyramid



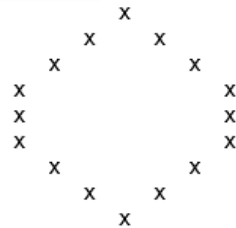
Pyramid Variation



Diamond



Diamond Variation



**Circle (Artistic, Mixed, Rotating and Traveling Elements/Shapes...)**

A Circle has a minimum of three Skaters.

Basic Circle shapes are defined as follows:

- One Circle;
- Multiple Circles: Two or more side by side Circles;
- Circle(s) inside Circle(s).

**Line (Artistic, Linear & Pivoting, Mixed and No Hold Elements/Shapes...)**

A Line must have a maximum of two lines.

**Wheel (Artistic, Mixed, Rotating and Traveling Elements/Shapes...)**

A spoke must have a minimum of two Skaters.

- Spokes may be straight, curved.
- Basic Wheel shapes are defined as follows:
- One, two (or "S" wheel), three, four or five spoke Wheel;
- Multiple Wheels;
- Two-line, Three-line parallel Wheel.

A variation of a Basic Element/Shape configuration is defined as a deviation of a basic shape where Skaters may or may not be attached.

**ARTISTIC ELEMENT**

Artistic Elements are Block, Circle, Line, Wheel.

Artistic Circle or Wheel begins once the configuration is recognized and starts to rotate with all Skaters participating.

The Artistic Block or Line begins once the configuration is recognized and is progressing along/across the ice with all Skaters participating.

Interesting variations of the basic shapes must enhance the idea of the program and fully reflect the music.

Ends once the configuration breaks apart or a connection into another Element or connecting Element begins.

### **CREATIVE ELEMENT**

Unique, innovative configurations, shapes, patterns, positions or use of Features, Element(s) selected by the SYSTC. Must be used to match the music in order to enhance the idea of the program and fully reflect the music. All or part of the requirements, currently listed for the selected Element, may be suspended for the season.

Begins when the shape/requirements of the selected Element is/are recognized.

Ends when the requirements for the Elements are met and once the Skaters break apart or a connection into another Element or connecting Element begins.

### **CREATIVE DANCE ELEMENT**

Performance using all vocabulary of skating on one continuous axis. Must be used to match the music in order to enhance the idea of the program and fully reflect the music.

Begins at a barrier and progresses to the opposite barrier.

Ends when the Skaters have attained the opposite barrier and they break apart or a connection into another Element or connecting Element begins.

### **GROUP LIFT ELEMENT**

Begins once the Skaters begin to form their group for the lift. All Skaters must attempt participation in a Group Lift Element either by being the lifted Skater or by supporting the lifted Skater.

Ends when the lifted Skater is set down and the Skaters break apart or a connection into another Element or connecting Element begins.

### **INTERSECTION ELEMENT**

May include an Additional Feature (Point of Intersection).

All Skaters must intersect and/or pass-through during the Intersection Element. There are two different options in which this can be executed.

- Intersecting: see definition of Features;
  - Passing through: see definition of Features.
1. **Angled Intersection:** two lines are skating towards each other and the Axis of Intersection, from opposite sides/ends of the ice surface while remaining parallel to each other.
  2. **Collapsing Intersection:** Skaters pass each other at different times using at least two different axis. Examples of a collapsing type of Intersection are box, triangle or "L" Intersection.
  3. **Combined Intersection:** when two different types of intersections are combined.
  4. **Two Line Intersection:** two lines are skating towards each other and the Axis of Intersection from different/opposite sides of the ice surface in a Mirror Image pattern.
  5. **"V" Intersection:** two or more straight lines are pivoting and skating towards each other and the Axis of Intersection from two opposite sides/ends. Skaters pass each other at the same or different times.
  6. **Whip Intersection:** the two lines approach each other starting from a curve until the lead Skaters of each line become back to back with the Axis of intersection and then start to straighten before intersecting.

The number of Skaters in each line (part) of an Intersection must be as equal as possible.

Begins with the approach phase or Feature(s).

Ends after the exit phase of the intersection (phase 3) and the configuration breaks apart or a connection into another Element or connecting Element begins.

**Phases of an Intersection Element:**

Using three phases. Each of these three phases must be included.

**Phase 1 – Approach**

Begins when the Team starts moving towards the Axis of Intersection and ends when the Skaters intersect and/or with the start of a pi rotation.

Note: The approach phase for an Angled Intersection begins when the lines are moving towards each other and ends once the lead Skaters of each line start to pass each other.

**Phase 2** – Point of Intersection (see Rule 841 paragraph 5.

**Phase 3** – Exit of Intersection

Moment after the Axis of Intersection when the Skaters are moving away from the point of Intersection.

**MIXED ELEMENT**

Two or more different Elements are interacting with each other. The Elements may cross paths, intersect, circle, mirror, pass by and/or be connected to each other, may be in Pairs (with a minimum of two Pairs which are part of an Element Shape).

Choice of Elements are: Block, Circle, Line and Wheel.

Begins when at least two different Elements are recognized.

Ends once the Element Shape(s) break apart or a connection into another Element or a connecting Element begins.

**MOVE ELEMENT**

Consists of Free Skating Move(s).

Begins at the start of the first Free Skating Move or Features.

Ends when the Skaters break apart or a connection into another Element or connecting Element begins.

**NO HOLD ELEMENT**

May include an Additional Feature (Step Sequence) performed with a no hold.

Begins when the Skaters form one block and are in a no hold.

When the block breaks apart or a connection into another Element or connecting Element begins or when all or some of the Skaters deliberately touch each other.

**PAIR ELEMENT**

Begins once the pairs are formed by the entire Team.

May consist of Free Skating Elements, Free Skating Moves or Step Sequences or other skating movements.

Ends once the pairs break apart and a connection into another Element or connecting Element begins.

**PIVOTING AND LINEAR ELEMENTS**

All Skaters must be attached (for most of the time).

Begins once the configuration is recognized and is progressing along/across the ice.

Linear Elements; must attempt to progress across the ice.

Pivoting Elements; must attempt to pivot.

Pivoting Line Element; the number of Skaters in each line(s) must be as equal as possible.

Ends when the configuration breaks apart or a connection into another Element or connecting Element begins.

**SYNCHRONIZED SPIN ELEMENT**

Begins with the entry edge or Feature.

The Skaters may use the same or different rotational directions.

Ends when the Skaters stop spinning and break apart or a connection into another Element or connecting Element begins.

Phases of a Synchronized Spin Element:

Using three phases. Each of the three phases must be included.

**Phase 1** – Entry - Moment that the Skater(s) steps onto the entry edge or Feature.

**Phase 2** – Rotation(s) - Number of times a Skater(s) rotate.

**Phase 3** – Exit - Moment when the Skater(s) stop spinning.

### **TRAVELING AND ROTATING ELEMENTS/SHAPES**

The Element/Shape begins once a circle(s) and/or a wheel(s) shape(s) is/are recognized and starts to rotate.

Rotating Elements/Shapes; the Element/Shape must attempt to rotate.

Traveling Elements/Shapes; the Element/Shape must attempt to rotate and travel.

Ends when the configuration breaks apart or a connection into another Element/Shape or connecting Element/Shape begins.

### **TWIZZLE ELEMENT**

Consists of a set of twizzles.

Begins with the entry of the first twizzle or Feature(s).

Ends when all Skaters complete the last twizzle and breaks apart or a connection into another Element or connecting Element begins.

## **Rule 842 Short Program and Free Skating in Synchro 12 – 16**

### **1. Number of Elements**

The sequence of Elements is optional.

Short Program (SP)

Senior and Junior SP consists of a maximum of six required Elements.

Free Skating (FS)

Senior FS consists of a maximum of eleven Elements.

Junior FS consists of a maximum of ten Elements.

Novice FS consists of a maximum of nine Elements.

### **2. General Requirements for Short Program and Free Skating**

A good program contains Elements linked together harmoniously by a variety of connections and executed with a minimum of two footed skating. Synchronized Skating refers to the quality of skating, importance of unison, the accuracy of formations and preciseness of the Team, all incorporated into a program of a specified time limit.

Any music including vocal music using lyrics is permitted. However, the Teams must skate the program in time to the music.

Element(s) will be considered as not attempted if the Element does not meet the minimum Basic requirements.

Creative innovations and variations are not Features and are permitted in connections and Required Elements; Creative innovations will be reflected in GOE and the Program Components.

The Team must predominately act as one unit. Division of the Team into several units is permitted during the Creative Element and connections. Additionally, several units can be used as short connections if the Element following the connection so requires (i.e. preparation for an Intersection or beginning of a Creative Element).

Features and Additional Features will be counted only once per Element.

Features may be executed at the same time as other Features unless otherwise stated in a Communication.

Variety of Steps, turns, linking steps may be used both in the Elements and during connections.

Syncopated choreography may be used in the Elements, Features and Additional Features and connections unless otherwise stated in a Communication.

The choreography and Elements should be executed facing towards all sides of the ice rink.

Elements executed using the wrong shape will receive a penalty.

Programs not fulfilling the requirements will be penalized.

### **3. Short Program Requirements**

Consists of required Elements. The program shall be skated in harmony with the music chosen by the Team.

Un-prescribed, additional Elements or repetitions of Elements which have failed, are not permitted and will not be marked and a deduction must be made if any of those Elements are included. Basic Element shapes up to and including Level 1, Creative Element(s) and/or Artistic Elements (any level) will not be considered as an un-prescribed or additional Element(s).

Connections necessary to link the required Elements are permitted.

Some Features and Additional Features will be prescribed for each Element in a Short Program. Features and Additional Features other than those required for each Element in Short Program may not be taken into consideration when determining the level of an Element.

Lifts may be used only in Senior Short Program (only when required as an Element or used as an option to execute a Feature).

### **4. Free Skating Requirements**

Free Skating consists of a well-balanced program composed of Elements connections reflecting the character of the music and/or expressing a concept, story, theme or idea of the Team's own choice.

Other Elements may be incorporated into the Free Skating program and will be judged as connections as part of the Composition component.

Features and Additional Features are optional. In order to increase the difficulty of the required Elements in Free Skating, Features and Additional Features may be incorporated into the Free Skating Elements and will be called by the Technical Panel and evaluated by the Judges.

## **Rule 843 Element Information for Short Program and Free Skating**

Each season, the required Elements for the Junior and Senior Short Program and the Free Skating for all categories will be selected from the following list and will be published annually in the Well-Balanced Program (WBP), an ISU Communication.

### **1. List of Elements**

Artistic Element  
Creative Element  
Creative Dance Element  
Intersection Element  
Group Lift Element (Senior only when required)  
Linear Element (Block or Line)  
Mixed Element  
Move Element  
No Hold Element  
Pair Element  
Pivoting Element (Block or Line)  
Rotating Element (Circle or Wheel)  
Synchronized Spin Element  
Traveling Element (Circle or Wheel)  
Twizzle Element.

- 2. Illegal Elements/Features/Additional Features and Movements Short Program (Junior and Senior) and Free Skating (Novice, Junior and Senior) in Synchro 12 – 16 and all Segments of Synchro9**
- a) All categories**
- Back spirals through the Axis of Intersection
  - Illegal lifts
  - Split jump through the Axis of intersection
  - Unassisted/solo back flip(s)
- b) Junior and Senior Short Program**
- Lifts of any variety unless required
- c) Novice**
- Lifts of any variety
  - Vaults
  - Individual gymnastic style movements such as cartwheels, somersaults, head and/or handstands etc.

## **II. REGULATIONS FOR SYNCHRO12-16 only**

### **A. Competitions**

#### **Rule 844 Announcement of Requirements for Short Program and Free Skating in Synchro12-16**

1. The Program for Seniors and Juniors is split into a Short Program and a Free Skating. Novices (Basic and Advanced) perform only a Free Skating.
2. For International Competitions, the lists of Elements will be announced annually by the Synchronized Skating Technical Committee in an ISU Communication not later than June 1st, to become effective on July 1st of the same year following the announcement.
3. a) The specific requirements for the Short Program and Free Skating will be decided annually by the Synchronized Skating Technical Committee and announced in an ISU Communication;  
b) The specific requirements announced for the Short Program and Free Skating must be used at all ISU Championships and respective International Competitions during the year, from July 1st to June 30th, for which they are announced.
4. All Communications concerning technical requirements must be published before June 1st except for pending decisions as a result of a Congress, clarifications and additional examples which may be published as needed.

#### **Rule 845 Team Names**

Teams will be permitted to use individual Team names, provided that they do not conflict with the ISU sponsors. If the ISU deems a name inappropriate at any time, it will notify the ISU Member Federation, which will then be required to file a name change for the Team in question.

#### **Rule 846 Order of Segments**

1. In Competitions with a Short Program and Free Skating, the Short Program must be skated before Free Skating.
2. In such Competitions each Team must skate the Short Program and Free Skating alone on the ice surface.

#### **Rule 847 Competition Schedule**

1. When the event is comprised of two Segments, it is recommended that the competition should last at least 2 days, but in no more than 3 consecutive days.
2. At the option of the Organizers the Short Program can be skated either on a preceding day or on the same day as the Free Skating (except ISU Championships) provided there is an interval of at least 4 hours after the end of the Short Program.
3. Events should not begin before 9.00 a.m. and should be planned to finish by 11.00 p.m.

4. At all events, the Organizer must provide to each competing Team on the competition arena ice surface practice ice free of charge. For Senior category: a minimum of 10 minutes of practice ice, free of charge before the Short Program event and a minimum of 12 minutes between the Short Program and the Free Skating. For Junior category: a minimum of 10 minutes before the Short Program and a minimum of 11 minutes between the Short Program and the Free Skating. For Novice category: a minimum of 10 minutes any time before the Free Skating. At the official practices for Short Program and Free Skating, the competitive music of the Team will be played twice, each time without interruption. No other music will be played during the official practice Segments.

#### **Rule 848 Program Content Sheet**

Each Team shall present a Program Content Sheet, i.e. an official form indicating the planned Elements, for each Segment of the Competition. Connections between elements must not be written on the Program Content Sheet.

#### **Rule 849 Entries into ISU Championships**

1. At ISU Synchronized Skating Championships, the top five placed ISU Members in the previous ISU Synchronized Skating Championships may enter two Teams.
2. Minimum Combined Total Element Scores.  
To be entered into and participate in an ISU Championships a Team must have reached in a Competition (as per Articles 1 – 3 CER) during the ongoing or immediately preceding season the applicable Combined Total Elements Scores (Short Program and Free Skating added).  
These scores must have been earned by participating in a Senior Category of the competitions mentioned under Articles 1 – 3 CER in order to enter the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships or respectively in a Junior Category in order to enter the ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships.  
The applicable Combined Total Elements Scores shall be decided for each season by the ISU Council based on a proposal from the Synchronized Skating Technical Committee and shall be published in an ISU Communication before August 1st each year.  
The hosting ISU Member's Team is automatically entered and does not need to satisfy the Minimum Combined Total Element Scores.

#### **Rule 850 Draws for Starting Orders for International Competitions**

The draw for starting order of the Teams for the Short Program of the Event shall be conducted as follows:

1. Short Program:
  - a) Select a Skater from one of the Teams in order to draw for the ISU Member who will start the draw;  
Draw the starting order proceeding in alphabetical order by ISU Member, beginning with the ISU Member who was drawn to start;
  - b) This procedure does not apply to the ISU Synchronized Skating Championships and OWG (see Rule 851, paragraph 1).
2. Free Skating:
  - a) For the Free Skating the starting order will be the reverse order of the result after the Short Program;

- b) The Teams will be divided into the smallest possible number of equal groups, size of Starting Order Groups Free Skating, Table II in the order in which they finished the Short Program;
  - c) If the number of Teams is not equally divisible, the last group to skate (and as many preceding groups as necessary) must contain one more Team than the first group. The lowest placed group must skate first, the next lowest second and so on;
  - d) If two or more Teams are tied for the same place at the end of the Short Program, the Teams concerned shall be placed in the same group, if necessary, the immediately preceding group shall be smaller by the number of Teams added to that particular group. The maximum number of Teams to be placed in the same group is six. The starting order for tied Teams is determined in a manual draw by lot. The draw for tied Teams is carried out by the Referee with the Technical Controller being present.
3. If one or more Teams decide to withdraw their participation before the beginning of the next Segment then the open spot(s) will not be substituted by any other Team(s). The number of Teams for that Segment will be reduced by the number of withdrawn Teams. If the withdrawal(s) is announced after the draw for the starting order of the following Segment, then the starting order and the warm-up groups will not be changed and the spot of the withdrawn Team(s) remains empty.
  4. If one or more Teams are disqualified before the beginning of the next Segment then the open spot(s) will be filled by the remaining Team(s), and the starting order and the warm-up groups will be changed accordingly.  
If necessary:
    - a) The starting order of the added Teams in the first subgroup will be decided by an additional separate draw;  
Rule 852, paragraph 3 shall apply..

### **Rule 851 Draws for Teams in ISU Championships**

1. For all ISU Championships, the draw for the Short Program will be held according to the latest World Standings as follows, whereby World Standings will be established as per the procedure published in an ISU Communication:
  - a) For the purpose of the draw, the Teams are listed in accordance with the latest ISU World Standings at the time of the Team Leaders Meeting at the respective competition.
  - b) The Teams will be divided into starting order groups in accordance to Table II of the Technical Rules using the total number of Teams entered.
  - c) Within the starting order groups, the Teams will be divided into two equal subgroups, in case of an odd number of Teams the subgroups with the Teams drawing for the higher starting numbers will include one more Team.
  - d) There will be a free draw among all Teams of each such subgroup with the highest ranked Team of the World Standings drawing first and so on.
  - e) In case of ties in the World Standings there will be a separate draw between the tied Teams to decide the order of the draw. In case of ties in the World Standings on the border of starting order groups or the subgroups, all those tied Teams will be included in the later group or subgroup and the earlier competing group or subgroup will be smaller by the number of Teams so added to a later group. However, this procedure has no influence on the size of the warm-up groups for the Short Program or Qualifying Free Skating which strictly follows Table III of the Technical Rules.

- f) Teams, who have not received any ISU World Standing points will be listed at the bottom of the list in country order. There will be a separate draw between those Teams with no World Standing points to determine the starting order, following the basic principles of the draws.
2. The starting order for the Free Skating will be according to Rule 850, paragraph 2.

### **Rule 852 Warm-up Periods**

1. Warm-up periods must be allotted to all Teams. For a maximum size of each Starting Group before ice to be resurfaced see Rules 839 and 840; Size of Starting Order Groups Tables I and II).
  - a) Short Program and Free Skating; each Team shall be allowed a warm-up of at least 1 minute in duration (without their music during the judging time of the previous Team) before the Team is called to start.
  - b) A Team must not take more than 30 seconds for exiting the ice surface for both the Short Program and Free Skating.
2. In case of an interruption in the competition due to unforeseen circumstances of more than 10 minutes, the Teams concerned will be permitted to a second warm-up period.
3. In the event one or more tied Teams, as per Rule 850, paragraph 2.d), are included in the same group, the maximum number permitted to warm-up may be exceeded by one Team. However, if the maximum number permitted is exceeded by two or more Teams, the group in question shall be divided into two sub-groups.
4. The ice shall be resurfaced after every six Teams for the Short Program and after every five Teams for the Free Skating. The ice resurface groups will be based on Rules 839 and 840, however the ISU Event Manager and/or ISU Representative may decide to change the ice resurface groups based on the conditions of the ice at ISU Championships.

### **Rule 853 Call to the Start**

1. Prior to each performance, the names of those Teams about to compete must be clearly called.
2. Prior to the announcement, the next Team to skate must enter the ice surface for their warm-up at the sign of the RAI. Following the warm-up period the Team is announced.
3. Teams shall be announced utilizing the Teams' own name in the following manner: ISU Member followed by the Team's Name.
4. Each Team must take the starting position and make a signal to the Referee of each Segment of the competition (Short Program and/or Free Skating) at the latest 30 seconds after their name has been announced. If this time has expired and the Team has not yet taken the starting position, the Referee shall apply a deduction (deducted from the final score). If 60 seconds started from the call to the start have expired and the Team has not yet taken the starting position, they will be considered as withdrawn.

### **Rule 854 Duration of Skating**

The time must be reckoned from the moment that a Skater begins to move or to skate until arriving at a complete stop at the end of the program.

1. Short Program:  
Senior and Junior: 2 minutes and 50 seconds but may be less.
  - a) Any Element started after 2 minutes and 50 seconds will be considered in the marking as omitted.
  - b) If the Team fails to finish the Short Program within the time limit, there shall be a deduction, from the Total Score for up to every 5 seconds in excess.
2. Free Skating:
  - a) Senior: 4 minutes.
  - b) Junior: 3 minutes 30 seconds.
  - c) Novice: 3 minutes.

The Team is allowed to finish the Free Skating within ten seconds plus or minus the required time.

If the Team fails to finish the Free Skating within the allowed range of time, there will be a deduction for up to every 5 seconds lacking or in excess.

Any Elements started after the required time (plus 10 seconds allowed) will not be identified by the Technical Panel and will have no value.

If the duration of the program is 30 seconds or more under the required time no marks will be awarded.

### **Rule 855 ISU Judging System – Scoring Systems**

1. The results must be calculated electronically at ISU Synchronized Skating Championships.
2. The hosting ISU Member, in the case of International Competition other than ISU Events, or the ISU, in the case of ISU Events, is responsible for the accuracy of the results including the computer software program and shall provide experienced, competent operators who shall be responsible for the entry of data into the computer and the generating of official results.
3. Online marking and Display system
  - a) Officials Screen  
Each Judge and the Referee operate independently, and the decisions of the Technical Controller and Technical Specialists are recorded by the Data Operator using a touch screen or similar system which could be equipped with a built-in video replay system and any computer vision based measurement tool approved by the ISU. The inputs by each individual Judge, the Referee and the Technical Panel are transferred into a calculation computer, including, if possible, a complete back-up system.
  - b) Electronic marks display/scoreboard  
In the ISU Synchronized Skating World Championships an electronic mark display system must be used. The results display information (scoreboard) must show place in previous Segment (Short Program), current place in this Segment and overall current place. Additional information on scores, of interest for the public, is displayed as decided by the Council.

4. Off-line marking  
When online marking is not available, the Officials shall operate as follows.
  - a) With not more than five Judges and no Technical Panel (Technical Controller, Technical Specialist):
    - (i) The panel of Judges shall be split in the "Technical Judge(s)" (maximum two Judges) and the "Performance Judges" (if possible, not more than three Judges).
    - (ii) The "Technical Judge(s)" shall record all Elements and award the GOE for each Element, the "Performance Judges" shall award the Program Components only. The "Performance Judges" shall operate independently, while the "Technical Judges" may confer to agree on decision about the identified Elements.
    - (iii) One of the "Technical Judges" shall act as Referee. He shall, alone, decide upon the deductions under the obligations of Referees and Technical Panels.
  - b) With a Technical Panel (Technical Controller, Technical Specialist and, if possible, Assistant Technical Specialist) or with more than five Judges:
    - (i) With more than five Judges but no Technical Panel, paragraph a) (i) above shall apply.
    - (ii) A communication chain needs to be established (headsets etc.) between the "Performance Judges"/Judges and the "Technical Judge(s)"/Technical Panel. With the communication chain it is guaranteed that the "Performance Judges"/Judges operating in the panel are aware of the identified and called Elements.
    - (iii) The "Technical Judge(s)"/Technical Panel shall record all Elements and apply the deductions under the obligation of Technical Panels. The Judges shall award the GOE for each Element as well as the Program Components.
    - (iv) One of the "Technical Judges"/Judges shall act as Referee unless a separate Referee has been assigned to the event. He or the Referee alone shall apply the deduction under the obligations of Referees.
  - c) The "Officials Marking Sheets" need to be collected after each performance. The data is either transferred into a computer to calculate results or the calculation is done manually. The calculation of results shall be done according to Rule 856.

## **Rule 856 ISU Judging System - Determination and Publication of Results**

### **1. Basic principles of calculation**

- a) Every Element (i.e. Required Element of the Short Program or Element of the Well Balanced Free Skating Program) has a certain Base Value indicated in the Scale of Value (SOV) chart published in the ISU Communication.  
The Base Values for the Levels of Elements is determined by combining the Difficulty Groups of Elements and the Difficulty Groups of Additional Features. Each Synchronized Skating Element/configuration belongs to a Difficulty Group of Elements, which may contain the Features that are specific for the respective Element and increase the difficulty of an Element.
- b) Each Judge identifies for each Element one of the Grades of Execution. Each grade has its own positive (+) or negative (-) numerical value also indicated in the SOV chart published in an ISU Communication for each season.
- c) The panel's Grade of Execution (GOE) is determined by calculating the trimmed mean of the numerical values of the GOE awarded by Judges.
- d) The trimmed mean is calculated by deleting the highest and the lowest values and calculating the average of the remaining values. In the case when there are fewer than five judges, the highest and lowest values are not deleted from the calculation.

- e) This average will become the final GOE of an individual Element. The panel's GOE is rounded to two decimal places.
- f) The panel's score for each Element is determined by adding the trimmed mean GOE of this Element to its Base Value.
- g) The panel's scores for all the Elements are added giving thus the Total Elements Score.
- h) In the Short Program and Free Skating, each Element (Block, Circle, Intersection, Wheel etc.) will be evaluated separately and given a GOE.
- i) Any additional Element or Elements exceeding the prescribed numbers will not be counted in the result of a Team. Only the first attempt (or allowed number of attempts) of an Element will be taken into account.
- j) Each Judge also marks the Program Components on a scale from 0.25 to 10 with 0.25 points increments.
- k) The panel's points for each Program Component are obtained by calculating the trimmed mean of the Judges results for that Program Component. The trimmed mean is calculated in the manner described above in sub-paragraph d).  
The trimmed mean of each Program Component Score is rounded to two decimal places.  
The panel's points for each program component are then multiplied by a factor as announced in an ISU Communication.
- l) Deductions are applied for certain violations specified in the Regulations as follows:

<b>Violation:</b>	<b>As per:</b>	<b>Points:</b>	<b>Ded. given by</b>
Program time violation	Rule 854	-1.0: - for every 5 seconds lacking or in excess (Free Skating) - for every 5 seconds in excess of 2 min 50 sec (Short Program)	Referee
Costume and prop violation	Rule 804, paragraph 1	-1.0 per program	Judges/Ref
Costume failure	Rule 804, paragraph 2	-1.0 per program	Referee
Fall	Rule 811, paragraph 1	-1.0 for every Fall of one Skater	Technical Panel
Late start	Rule 853, paragraph 4	-1.0 for start between 1 and 30 seconds late	Referee
Interruption in excess	Rule 811, paragraph 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ more than 10 seconds up to 20 seconds: -1.0</li> <li>▪ more than 20 seconds up to 30 seconds: -2.0</li> <li>▪ more than 30 seconds up to 40 seconds: -3.0</li> </ul>	Referee

<b>Violation:</b>	<b>As per:</b>	<b>Points:</b>	<b>Ded. given by</b>
Interruption of the program with allowance of up to 3 minutes to resume from the point of interruption	Rule 822	-5.0 per program	Referee
Adverse condition prior the beginning of the program with allowance of up to 3 minutes	Rule 822 Paragraph 6	-5.0 per program	Referee
Illegal Elements/ Features/ Additional Features/ Movements	Rules 843, paragraph 2	-2.0 per violation	Technical Panel
Un-prescribed, Additional or Repeated Element	Rule 842, paragraph 3	-1.5 per violation	Technical Panel
Wrong Element shape	Rule 842, paragraph 3 and 4	No value	Technical Panel

## **2. Determination of Results in each Segment of the Competition**

- a) The Total Segment Score for each Team in each Segment of a competition (Short Program and Free Skating) is calculated by adding the Total Element Score and the Program Component Scores, subtracting any deductions for violations described in sub-paragraph 1. I).
- b) The Team with the highest Total Segment Score is placed first; the Team with the next highest Total Segment Score is placed second; and so on.
- c) If two or more Teams have the same result, the Total Element Score will break the tie in the Short Program. The Program Component Score will break the tie in the Free Skating. If these results are also equal, the Teams concerned will be considered as tied.
- d) For any Segment where a Segment factor is applied, the factored Segment Scores are rounded to two decimal places.

## **3. Determination of the Final Result**

- a) The Total Segment Score of the Short Program and Free Skating are added and the result constitutes the Final Score of a Team in a competition. The Team with the highest Final Score is first, etc.
- b) In cases of ties in the Final Score, the Team with the highest score for the last skated Segment is placed first etc. If there is a tie in the highest score, the better placement will decide the better place.
- c) If there is a tie for this Segment, the placement of the previously skated Segment will count for the better place etc. If there is no previous Segment, the Teams are tied.

#### 4. **Publication of Results**

- a) In the publication of the overall results of an event, the eliminated Teams shall be listed following the Teams who have successfully finished the competition and such eliminated Teams will be listed in order of their placement after their last completed Segment.  
Disqualified Teams will lose their placements and be officially noted in the intermediate and final results as disqualified (DSQ). Teams having finished the competition and who initially placed lower than the disqualified Teams(s) will move up accordingly in their placement(s).
- b) Following each Segment the Total Elements Score, the Panel's points obtained in each Program Component, the Program Component Score, the deductions and the Total Segment Score of every Team must be published.
- c) Following each Segment a printout indicating the Base Values of all the Elements and the GOE and points for the Program Components from every Judge will be issued. At ISU Events, the YOG and International Competitions the Judges names and their respective scores will be published.
- d) The final result must be published as soon as possible after the conclusion of the event. This must include for each Team:
  - (i) the final place;
  - (ii) separately, the placing in each Segment of a competition.
- e) On conclusion of the event the total points (Final Score) of each Team must be published.

### **Rule 857 Marking of Synchronized Skating Short Program and Free Skating**

#### 1. **Element Score**

The guidelines for the marking of Element Score are published and updated in ISU Communications.

##### **a) Scale of Values (SOV)**

As per Rule 856, paragraph a) the Scale of Values Table of the Synchronized Skating Elements of Short Program and Free Skating is published and updated in ISU Communications. This Scale of Values (SOV) contains Base Values of all the Elements and the numerical values of the Grades of Execution.

##### **b) Base Value**

The Technical Panel will determine the name and, when required, the Level of Difficulty of every Element. Base Values of Elements are measured in points and are indicated in the Scale of Values table. They increase with the increasing difficulty of the Elements. The difficulty of the Elements depends on their Levels of Difficulty.

##### **c) Levels of Difficulty of Elements**

The description of characteristics (Features) that give an Element a certain Level of Difficulty is published and updated in ISU Communications.

Required/Optional Elements are divided into groups depending on their difficulty, except Elements designated with a fixed Base Value in the list of Elements announced annually.

##### **d) Grade of Execution (GOE)**

As per Rule 856, paragraph b) each Judge will mark the quality of execution of every Element depending on the positive features of the execution and errors on the eleven Grades of Execution scale: +5, +4, +3, +2, +1, Base Value, -1, -2, -3, -4, -5.

##### **e) Features/Additional Features**

The Additional Features (Step Sequences, Point of Intersection) and Features are divided into the groups according to their difficulty (see Rule 841 paragraph 4).

Examples of some Additional Features can be included in the difficulty levels for the following Elements in Short Program and Free Skating and called by the Technical Specialists:

**ELEMENTS**

Intersection:

No Hold Element:

Features: Examples of some Features are body movement, pivoting, traveling etc. (See Rule 841 paragraph 5).

**ADDITIONAL FEATURES**

Point of Intersection

Step Sequence

**f) Illegal Elements/Features/Additional Features/Movements**

Every Illegal Element/Feature/Additional Feature/Movement as defined in Rule 843, paragraph 2 performed in the program will be penalized by a deduction (see Rule 856, paragraph 1.)).

If an Illegal Movement is performed during the execution of any Element or connecting Element, the Element/Feature/Additional Feature/Movement will be called as follows:

- The Element will be called “No Value” and a deduction is applied if the Illegal Movement is the Element (see Rule 856, paragraph 1.)).
- The Element is called + Feature is not counted and a deduction is applied if the Illegal Movement is included in the Feature (see Rule 856, paragraph 1.)).
- The Element is called + Additional Feature, is not counted and a deduction is applied if the Illegal Movement is included in the Additional Feature (see Rule 856, paragraph 1.)).
- Deduction is called if the Illegal Movement is included during a Connection (see Rule 856, paragraph 1.)).

**2. Program Component Score****a) Definition of Program Components**

The Team's whole performance is evaluated by three Program Components: Composition, Presentation and Skating Skills.

For Synchronized Skating there must be equal demonstration of the criteria by all Skaters.

**Composition:**

The intentional, developed and/or original arrangement of the repertoire of all types of movements into a meaningful whole according to the principles of proportion, unity, space, pattern and musical structure.

In evaluating the Composition, the following must be considered:

- Multidimensional movements and use of space;
- Connections between and within elements ;
- Choreography reflecting musical phrase and form;
- Pattern and ice coverage;
- Unity.

**Presentation:**

The demonstration of engagement, commitment and involvement based on an understanding of the music and composition.

In evaluating the Presentation, the following must be considered:

- Expressiveness and projection;
- Variety and contrast of energy and of movements;
- Musical sensitivity and timing;
- Oneness and awareness of space.

**Skating Skills:**

The ability of the Skater to execute the skating repertoire of steps, turns and skating movements with blade and body control.

In evaluating the Skating Skills, the following must be considered:

- Variety of edges, steps, turns, movements and directions;

- Clarity of edges, steps, turns, movements and body control;
- Balance and glide;
- Flow;
- Power and speed;
- Unison.

**b) Marking of Program Components**

After completion of a program, as per Rule 844, paragraph j), each Judge marks the Program Components on a scale from 0.25 to 10 with increments of 0.25. Points given by the Judges correspond to the following degrees of the Program Components: less than 1 – extremely poor, 1-1.75 - very poor, 2-2.75 - poor, 3-3.75 - weak, 4-4.75 – below average, 5-5.75 - average, 6-6.75 - above average, 7-7.75 - good, 8-8.75 - very good, 9-9.75 -excellent, 10 - outstanding. Increments are used for evaluation of performances containing some features of one degree and some of the next degree.

Guidelines for marking Program Components are published and updated in ISU Communications.

**3. Deductions**

Deductions are applied for certain violations of the Regulations (see Rule 856, paragraph 1. I)).

**Rule 858 Team Results by ISU Member**

The Council shall publish, in an ISU Communication, a calculation system to establish Team Results by ISU Member in International Competitions in Synchronised Skating. This system shall be based on the results of the individual competitions in each discipline per category (Senior, Junior, Novice), i.e. Women, Men, Pair Skating, Ice Dance and, when applicable, Synchronized Skating. This system shall be implemented as an option by hosting ISU Members of International Senior, Junior and Novice Competitions and be duly announced in the Announcement of the competition. Upon completion of the competition, the final Team Results are announced after the last awards ceremony for the individual competitions and shall be included in the final protocol.

**B. Officials****Rule 859 Additional Requirements for Judges: Practical Experience**

1. Background: have been included as International Judge in four annual ISU Communications of Officials immediately preceding the nomination.
2. Service: have served during the four seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, as a Judge: in at least three International Competitions) including one Senior and one Junior.
3. Seminar requirements:
  - a) have completed, during the four seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Judges Seminar for first listing as ISU Judge, attended in person.
  - b) completes an ISU Seminar for first listing as ISU Judge immediately before the examination.

### **Rule 860 Specific Requirements for Nomination and Listing of Technical Controllers**

- 1. To be eligible for first listing as an International Technical Controller, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**
  - a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year of the nomination.
  - b) Background:
    - (i) have been included at least as International Judge in the two consecutive annual ISU Communications of Officials immediately preceding the nomination;
    - (ii) have the highest knowledge of the discipline concerned with regards to the technical aspects;
    - (iii) possess good communication skills;
    - (iv) be able to take directions and work within a team environment.
  - c) Service: have served, during the two seasons preceding July 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year of the nomination, as a Technical Controller in two National Competitions.
  - d) Seminar requirements: completes an ISU Seminar for first listing as International Technical Controller immediately before the examination.
  - e) Examination: passes successfully the ISU Examination to become an International Technical Controller.
  
- 2. To be eligible for annual re-listing as an International Technical Controller, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**
  - a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year of the nomination.
  - b) Service: have served, during the three seasons preceding July 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year of the nomination, as a Technical Controller or Technical Specialist in two International Competitions or National Competitions.
  - c) Seminar requirements: has to fulfill one of the following requirements:
    - i) have completed, during the four seasons preceding July 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Seminar for International Judges attended in person.
    - ii) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Seminar of International Judges organized and controlled by the Technical Committee attended online.
    - iii) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Examination for re-listing as Technical Controller organized and controlled by the Technical Committee attended online or in-person as determined by the ISU.
  - d) Consequences of not meeting the service and/or seminar attendance requirements are listed in Rule 827, paragraph 6.
  
- 3. To be eligible for first listing as an ISU Technical Controller, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**
  - a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year of the nomination.
  - b) Background:
    - (i) have been included as International Referee, International Judge, ISU Referee or ISU Judge in the four consecutive annual ISU Communications of Officials immediately preceding the nomination or have been included as ISU Technical Specialist in the four consecutive annual ISU Communications of Officials immediately preceding the nomination;

- (ii) have been included as International Technical Controller or as ISU Technical Specialist in the four annual ISU Communications of Officials preceding the nomination;
  - (iii) have the highest knowledge of the discipline concerned with regards to the technical aspects;
  - (iv) possess good communication skills;
  - (v) be able to take directions and work within a team environment.
- c) Service: have served, during the forty-eight months preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, as a Technical Controller in a minimum of three competitions at least one of which must be an International Competition or for ISU Technical Specialists to become ISU Technical Controller have served during the forty-eight months preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination as a Technical Controller in a minimum of two National Competitions.
  - d) Seminar requirements: completes an ISU Seminar for first listing as ISU Technical Controller immediately before the examination.
  - e) Examination:
    - i. passes the ISU Examination to become an ISU Technical Controller, or
    - ii. passes a designated ISU Examination for ISU Technical Specialist to become an ISU Technical Controller.

**4. To be eligible for annual re-listing as an ISU Technical Controller, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**

- a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination.
- b) Service: have served, during the thirty-six months preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, as a Technical Controller or Technical Specialist in two International Competitions, or one ISU Event and one International Competition or one National Competition.
- c) Seminar requirements: has to fulfill one of the following requirements:
  - i) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Seminar for first listing or re-listing as ISU Technical Controller .
  - ii) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Seminar of ISU Technical Controllers organized and controlled by the Technical Committee attended online.
  - iii) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Examination for re-appointment of ISU Technical Controllers organized and controlled by the Technical Committee attended online or in-person as determined by the ISU.
  - iv) Serving, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, as a Technical Controller in an ISU Championships or the OWG and attended the Initial Technical Panel Meeting with a mini-seminar conducted with the Chair or a member of the Technical Committee.
- d) Consequences of not meeting the service and/or seminar attendance requirements are listed in Rule 827, paragraph 6.

**Rule 861 Specific Requirements for Nomination and Listing of Technical Specialists**

**1. To be eligible for first listing as an International Technical Specialist, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**

- a) Age: have reached the age of twenty-four but not the age of sixty before July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination.

- b) Background:
  - (i) be recruited from the group of Coaches, former competitive Skaters, or ISU/International Judges or Referees;
  - (ii) be involved on at least a weekly basis for the discipline concerned on site;
  - (iii) have been a former high-level Skater (as a minimum at national level);
  - (iv) have the highest knowledge of the discipline concerned with regards to the technical aspects;
  - (v) possess good communication skills;
  - (vi) be able to take directions and work within a team environment.
- c) Service: have served, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, as a Technical Specialist in two National Competitions.
- d) Seminar requirements: completes an ISU Seminar for first listing as International Technical Specialist immediately before the examination.
- e) Examination: passes successfully the ISU Examination to become an International Technical Specialist.
- f) A minimum of two seasons waiting period must be given between the end of the competitive skating career and the first nomination as a Technical Specialist.

**2. To be eligible for annual re-listing as an International Technical Specialist, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**

- a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination.
- b) Service: have served, during the three seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, as a Technical Controller or Technical Specialist in two International Competitions or National Competitions.
- c) Seminar requirements: has to fulfill one of the following requirements:
  - i) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Seminar for re-listing as International Technical Specialist.
  - ii) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Seminar of International Technical Specialist organized and controlled by the Technical Committee attended online or in-person as determined by the ISU.
  - iii) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, an ISU Examination for re-listing as International Technical Specialist organized and controlled by the Technical Committee attended online or in-person as determined by the ISU.
- d) Consequences of not meeting the service and/or seminar attendance requirements are listed in Rule 827, paragraph 6.

**3. To be eligible for first listing as an ISU Technical Specialist, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**

- a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination.
- b) Background:
  - (i) have been included as International Technical Specialist in the four consecutive annual ISU Communications listing such Officials positions immediately preceding the nomination;
  - (ii) be recruited from the group of Coaches, former competitive Skaters, or ISU/International Judges or Referees;
  - (iii) be involved on at least a weekly basis for the discipline concerned on site;
  - (iv) have been a former high-level Skater (as a minimum at national level);
  - (v) have the highest knowledge of the discipline concerned with regards to the technical aspects;
  - (vi) possess good communication skills;

- (vii) be able to take directions and work within a team environment.
- c) Service: have served, during the four seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, as a Technical Specialist in a minimum of three competitions at least one of which must be an International Competition or National Competitions.
- d) Seminar requirements: completes an ISU Seminar for first listing as ISU Technical Specialist immediately before the examination.
- e) Examination: passes successfully the ISU Examination to become an ISU Technical Specialist.

**4. To be eligible for annual re-listing as an ISU Technical Specialist, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**

- a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination.
- b) Service: have served, during the three seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, as a Technical Specialist or Technical Controller in two International Competitions, or one ISU Event or one International Competition and one National Competition.[PM1.1]
- c) Seminar requirements: has to fulfill one of the following requirements:
  - i) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination an ISU Seminar for first listing or re-listing as ISU Technical Specialists.
  - ii) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination an ISU Seminar of ISU Technical Specialists organized and controlled by the Technical Committee attended online or in-person as determined by the ISU.
  - iii) have completed, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination an ISU Examination for re-listing as ISU Technical Specialist organized and controlled by the Technical Committee attended online or in-person as determined by the ISU .
  - iv) Serving, during the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, as a Technical Controller in the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final or in an ISU Championships or the OWG and attended the Initial Technical Panel Meeting with a mini-seminar conducted with the Chair or a member of the Technical Committee.
- d) Consequences of not meeting the service and/or seminar attendance requirements are listed in Rule 827, paragraph 6.

**Rule 862 Specific Requirements for Nomination and Listing of Data & Replay Operators**

**1. To be eligible for first listing as an International Data & Replay Operator, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**

- a) Age: have reached the age of twenty-four but not the age of sixty before July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination.
- b) Background:
  - (i) be recruited from the group of Coaches, former competitive Skaters, ISU/International Judges or Referees, or persons involved in Figure Skating in any capacity with a good knowledge of data operations and video system;
  - (ii) have a good knowledge of the discipline concerned with regards to the technical aspects;
  - (iii) possess good communication skills;
  - (iv) be able to take directions and work within a team environment.

- c) Service: have served, in the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, on data operations and video systems on national level.
  - d) Seminar attendance: complete an ISU Seminar for Data & Replay Operators and be recommended by the ISU Vice-President for this “International” qualification.
- 2. To be eligible for annual re-listing as an International Data & Replay Operator, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**
- a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination.
  - b) Service: have served, during the three seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, as Data & Replay Operator in both capacities in two International Competitions or National Competitions. Serving in any discipline counts. Serving as a moderator in an ISU Seminar for Data & Replay Operators counts as service in both capacities.
  - c) Consequences of not meeting the service and/or seminar attendance requirements are listed in Rule 827, paragraph 6.
- 3. To be eligible for first listing as an ISU Data & Replay Operator, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**
- a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination.
  - b) Background:
    - (i) be recruited from the group of Coaches, former competitive Skaters, ISU/International Judges or Referees or persons involved in Figure Skating in any capacity with a good knowledge of data operations and video system;
    - (ii) have a good knowledge of the discipline concerned with regards to the technical aspects;
    - (iii) possess good communication skills;
    - (iv) be able to take directions and work within a team environment.
  - c) Service: have served, in the two seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, on data operations and video systems on national level.
  - d) Seminar attendance: complete an ISU Seminar for Data & Replay Operators and be recommended by the ISU Vice-President for this “ISU” qualification.
- 4. To be eligible for annual re-listing as an ISU Data & Replay Operator, the Official must fulfill the following requirements:**
- a) Age: have not reached the age of seventy before July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination.
  - b) Service: have served, during the three seasons preceding July 1st of the calendar year of the nomination, as Data & Replay Operator in both capacities in two International Competitions, or one ISU Event and one National Competition. Serving in any discipline counts. Serving as a moderator in an ISU Seminar for Data & Replay Operators counts as service in both capacities.
  - c) Consequences of not meeting the service and/or seminar attendance requirements are listed in Rule 827, paragraph 6.

#### **Rule 863 Recommended Officials and Validity for Ranking**

- 1. The following Officials are recommended:
  - a) Referee;
  - b) a Panel of a minimum of five, if possible and a maximum of nine Judges;
  - c) a Technical Controller;
  - d) two Technical Specialists;
  - e) a Data Operator;
  - f) a Replay Operator.

2. The names of the Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialists, Data and Replay Operators actually serving at International Competitions as well as the names of those Judges nominated but not drawn must be announced to the ISU Office within 2 weeks after the conclusion of the competition, by the hosting ISU Member.
3. For the results from any International Competition to count towards ISU Championships qualification, or for World Standings or World Rankings, the following conditions must be met:
  - a) the Technical Controller and the Technical Specialist must not be from the same ISU Member, and
  - b) a Panel of a minimum of five judges is required, and, no ISU Member can have the majority on any panel.
  - c) In exceptional situations, the Referee's marks are considered for the results in order to ensure the required minimum number of five judges.

### **Rule 864 Duties and Powers of Technical Officials**

#### **1. Duties and powers of the Technical Controller**

- a) authorizes or corrects the deletion of Elements;
- b) supervises the Technical Specialists and Data Operators and proposes corrections, if necessary, respecting any performed Element and Level of Difficulty identified by the serving both Technical Specialists. However, if both Technical Specialists disagree with a correction asked by the Technical Controller the initial decision of the Technical Specialists stands. In the case of a disagreement about an Element and/or Level of Difficulty exists between the two Technical Specialists, the decision of the Technical Controller prevails;
- c) the Technical Controller, is responsible to verify that the performed Elements and Levels of Difficulty identified in accordance with the above-mentioned procedure are correctly introduced into the system by the Data Operator and the performed Elements and Levels of Difficulty may be validated only upon formal confirmation by the Technical Controller that such verification has been completed;
- d) authorizes or corrects the identification of illegal Elements/non-permitted Elements/Features/Additional Features/movements;
- e) authorizes or corrects the identification of a fall, which occurred in any part of the program; However, if both Technical Specialists disagree with a correction on illegal Elements or falls asked for by the Technical Controller, the initial decision of the Technical Specialists stands. In case of disagreement relating to an illegal element or a fall between the two Technical Specialists, the decision of the Technical Controller prevails;
- f) attends the sufficient practice sessions of the competition to make the necessary preparations;
- g) conducts the Initial Technical Panel Meeting (see Rule 865) and a meeting with the Technical Specialists and the Data & Replay Operators prior to every Segment of an event according to the ISU guidelines;
- h) moderates the Technical Panel Discussion according to ISU guidelines (see Rule 865);
- i) if possible, assists the Referee in moderating the Round Table Discussion according to ISU guidelines (see Rule 835);
- j) prepares the Report on the event according to ISU guidelines (see Rule 836).

## 2. **Communication between the Referee and the Technical Controller**

If possible, there should be direct communication between the Referee and the Technical Controller during the competition.

## 3. **Duties of the Technical Specialists**

### **The Technical Specialists**

- a) identify and call the performed Elements;
- b) identify and call correct Levels of Difficulty of the performed Elements (the difficulty groups of Elements and the difficulty groups of Additional Features);
- c) identify and call deductions;
- d) identify illegal Elements, Features/Additional Features/movements (see Rules 842, 843);
- e) identify a fall, which occurred in any part of the program;
- f) identify and delete additional Elements;
- g) attend sufficient practice sessions for due preparation of the competition;
- h) attend the Initial Technical Panel Meeting (see Rule 865) and the meeting held by the Technical Controller prior to every Segment of an event according to the ISU guidelines;
- i) attend the Technical Panel Discussion moderated by the Technical Controller according to ISU guidelines (see Rule 865).

## 4. **Duties of the Data & Replay Operator**

### **a) The Data Operator**

- (i) inputs the called Elements;
- (ii) inputs the Levels of Difficulty of the Elements as called;
- (iii) inputs the deductions as called;
- (iv) corrects Elements or Levels of Difficulty as instructed by the Technical Controller;
- (v) indicates additional Elements identified by the computer to the Technical Specialist and to the Technical Controller.

### **b) The Replay Operator**

records each Element separately to enable the Technical Panel, the Referee and the Judges to review the Element when necessary.

### **c) The Data & Replay Operators**

- (i) support the Technical Specialists and the Technical Controller;
- (ii) attend the Initial Technical Panel Meeting (see Rule 865) and the meeting held by the Technical Controller prior to every Segment of an event according to the ISU guidelines;
- (iii) attend the Technical Panel Discussion moderated by the Technical Controller according to ISU guidelines (see Rule 865).

## **Rule 865 Meetings at Competitions for Technical Panels**

### **1. Initial Technical Panel Meeting**

Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists and Data & Replay Operators of International Competitions, ISU Championships, OWG and YOG must attend a closed meeting (Initial Technical Panel Meeting) moderated by the Technical Controller held before the competition starts. The moderators must draw to the attention of the Officials in brief summary form the Rules relating to the duties of Technical Panels and the calling specifications with special attention being paid to any changes in calling specifications or in their interpretation or clarification that have been officially published.

At ISU Championships, this meeting must be moderated by the Technical Controller, together with the Chair and/or a member of the Technical Committee if available, for the purposes of Rule 830 paragraph 7.

## 2. Technical Panel Discussion

Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists and Data & Replay Operators of International Competitions, ISU Championships, OWG and YOG, must attend a closed meeting (Technical Panel Discussion) moderated by the Technical Controller, held as soon as possible after conclusion of each discipline/category but not later than the following day of the discipline/category in question.

The following topics will be discussed during the meeting, with a purpose of feedback among Officials and to reach a consensus to assist the ISU for future guidelines:

- a) evaluation of teamwork;
- b) evaluation of service;
- c) difficult decisions;

possible improvements to the calling specifications, the equipment, the print-outs and the flow of information both internally and externally.

### Rule 866 Report of Technical Controller

1. The Technical Controller shall prepare a typed report on a standard form of the competition (except for Basic Novice International Competitions), in which the following areas are to be identified:
  - a) evaluation of teamwork;
  - b) evaluation of the Technical Specialist's work;
  - c) evaluation of the Data Operator's work;
  - d) evaluation of the Replay Operator's work;
  - e) summary of Technical Panel Discussions;
  - f) additional remarks (if necessary);
  - g) proposals for improvement.
2. The Technical Controller shall send his report within 14 days following the competition to the ISU Office.

Upon well-grounded request, the ISU Office may extend this time limit by a maximum of 14 days if compelling circumstances so warrant, provided the request has been sent to the ISU Office within the original time limit.

### Rule 867 Return from Not-Officiating

1. International Technical Panel Members (Technical Controllers and Technical Specialists) and International Data & Replay Operators who suspend their officiating at ISU Events and International Competitions in Synchronized Skating for more than one season may resume officiating at events requiring International qualification only after successfully completing the ISU in-person seminar during the season in which they intend to re-enter.
2. ISU Technical Panel Members (Technical Controllers and Technical Specialists) and ISU Data & Replay Operators who suspend their officiating at the above mentioned events for more than one season may resume officiating at events requiring ISU qualification only after successfully completing the seminar with recertification during the season of re entry and serving as an ISU Technical Panel Member or ISU Data & Replay Operator at an International Competition.
3. Officials intending to return, or their ISU Members, must notify the ISU Office by April 15 of the relevant year. The application of the above conditions and the required assignments for reinstatement will be determined and communicated by the ISU Vice President and the ISU Office. All measures shall be taken to ensure the process is not unreasonably delayed.

## **Rule 868 Anomalies, Evaluation of Technical Panel**

### **1. Principles of calculating Anomalies:**

- a) Grade of Execution (GOE)
  - i) For each element performed the computer calculates the average GOE of all the Judges. The GOE's awarded by the Referee are NOT used in this calculation.
  - ii) The computer then calculates the difference per element between the "calculated average" and each Judge's GOE's which results in "Deviation Points".
- b) Program Component Scores (PCS)
  - i) For each Program Component, the computer calculates the average scores of all the Judges. The Program Components scores awarded by the Referee are NOT used in this calculation.
  - ii) The computer then calculates the difference between the "calculated average" and the Judges Program Components scores which results in "Deviation Points".
  - iii) The Total Deviation points for each Judge will be added to provide a Total Net Deviation Points (+ and – Deviation Points compensate each other) based on all Program Components totaled.
- c) The acceptable range of Deviation points and all subsequent procedures will be laid down in an annual ISU Communication.

### **2. Evaluation of the decision of the Technical Panel, the operation of Data Replay Operators and of the decisions of or the conduct of competition by the Referee at ISU Events, Olympic Winter Games and Winter Youth Olympic Games.**

- a) If:
  - (i) the OAC members appointed to the competition (on site or off site) and/or
  - (ii) the ISU President and/or,
  - (iii) the ISU Council and/or,
  - (iv) the ISU Representative of the competition and/or,
  - (v) the Technical Committee,
- b) consider a decision by the Referee, an operation of the Data or Replay Operator or a decision of or the conduct of the competition by the Referee as erroneous they shall file a report to the Vice-President for the Figure Skating Branch outlining the identified wrong decision, wrong operation or wrong conduct of the competition in consistent and detailed remarks with indication of the applicable Rules. In the event of an incorrect decision by the Technical Panel, an error in the operation of the Data or Replay Operator, or an incorrect decision or improper conduct of a competition by the Referee, the Technical Committee shall review the recordings of the decision in question. It shall then compile a report and submit its recommendation on the outcome to the Vice President Figure Skating for the final determination. Depending on the severity of the error established, either a Letter of Advice or Letter of Warning or an Assessment shall be issued. The Officials selected by the Vice President Figure Skating and the Technical Committee shall forward their conclusions whether the relevant decision, operation or conduct of the competition was wrong or not, independently from each other to the Vice-President for the Figure Skating Branch. If the majority of the selected Officials concludes that the decision or operation or conduct of the competition in question was wrong, the Vice-President for the Figure Skating Branch shall issue an Assessment or, in case of minor failures, a Letter of Warning or Letter of Advice..

### 3. Evaluation of reports of Referees and reports of Technical Controllers

The Technical Committee shall rate the quality of the reports of the Referees and of the reports of the Technical Controller for all ISU Events and International Competitions based on documentation delivered according to Rule 836 as very good, good, acceptable/average, mediocre or poor. The respective qualification shall be added to the records of the concerned Referees and Technical Controllers. If any report is rated as poor the Technical Committee shall investigate the matter and compile a report containing its recommendation on the outcome, which will be forwarded to the Vice President Figure Skating for final determination. Depending on the severity of the poor execution of duties established, either a Letter of Advice, or a Letter of Warning and/or an Assessment shall be issued.

## III. REGULATION FOR SYNCHRO9 only

### Rule 1 Concept

1. a) Synchro9 is a subdiscipline of Synchronized Skating consisting of Battles with up to 4 different Segments and Programs in Synchronized Skating emphasizing
  - creative freedom
  - a shape-driven and continuous performance with flexible feature integration, and
  - rewarding innovation.b) A number of International Competitions will be identified by the ISU for each season.  
c) The details are specified by the Announcements and/or ISU Communications for those Competitions.  
d) As far as not stated otherwise by these Rules the Sports Rules Synchronized Skating apply.
2. a) ISU Synchro9 championships shall consist of Battles with 3 different Segments and Programs as follows:
  - i) Starting Round(s):
    - Part 1: Starting Groups
      - A skating program of a maximum of 3 minutes and 30 seconds
    - Part 2: Challenge Battles
      - An optional second battle with one Full Team Movement drawn, as specified in an ISU Communication.
  - ii) Semi-Final Round Battles
    - A skating program of a maximum of 2 minutes and 40 seconds maximum
  - iii) Finals/Placement Round Battles
    - A free skating program of a maximum of 3 minutes and 30 secondsb) International Synchro9 Competitions shall consist of one of the below formats:
  - (i) full Olympic format events
  - (ii) events with individual segments
  - (iii) events with several different segments.The format of each event must be specified in the competition announcement.
3. a) A Synchro9 Team must consist of 9 Skaters and may include both women and men; the object of a Team is to perform as one unit. For seasons 2026/27 and 2027/28, Synchro9 teams shall be formed by women only.  
b) Each Team may have up to a maximum of one Alternate listed as such on the Team roster.  
c) The maximum number of entries for a respective International Competition is laid down by its Announcement.

- d) If an injury/illness should occur during practices or competition, at either the Competitions or practice venue(s), the team will be permitted to skate with not less than eight Skaters. Any injury/illness occurring at a Competition must be certified by the ISU Medical Advisor assigned to the respective Competition or the Team Physician.

### **Rule 2 Program Composition**

1. The Full Team shall demonstrate unity with Full Team Movements.
2. Individual Skater(s) may showcase highlighting as part of their choreography.
3. The Team shall demonstrate all four basic core shapes (block, circle, line, wheel) and fulfilment of requirements listed in an ISU Communication annually and/or biannually.

### **Rule 3 Competition Schedule**

1. All Segments should be performed on 2 days, but no more than 3 consecutive days.
2. The Battles must be skated in order, starting by the Starting Rounds, then the Semi-Finals and at last the Finals.
3. The Semi-Final Battles' Program must be skated either on the same day as the Final Battle provided there is an interval of at least 30 minutes after the end of the Semi-Finals or on the day before the Final.
4. At all events, the Organizer must provide to each competing Team practice ice free of charge on the competition ice surface. For each category a minimum of 10 minutes of practice ice in the morning of the competition must be provided. The competitive music(s) of the Team will be played once (for Semi-Final and Final) or twice (for Starting Rounds), each time without interruption. No other music will be played during the official practice segments.

### **Rule 4 Competition Format**

1. Depending on the number of entries, 2 Starting Groups will be formed for the Starting Rounds.
2. The Teams will be cross seeded according to the rank achieved in the Starting Rounds for the Semi-Finals, whereby the first-ranked Team of one Starting Group competes with the second-ranked Team of the other Starting Group in the Semi-Finals.
3. The lower ranked Teams of the Starting Groups following the same order of better-ranked Team in one Starting Group against lower-ranked Team in the other Starting Group will be seeded in Placement Battles.
4. The second-ranked Teams from the Semi-Finals move on to the Bronze Final Battle which will take place before the Final Battle, where the first-ranked Teams of the Semi-Finals will compete against each other.
5. The winner of the Competition is the Team that wins the Final. The other team will be ranked second. The Team winning the Bronze Final Battle will be ranked third, the other Team from the Bronze Final Battle will be ranked fourth. The Teams from the Placement Battles will be ranked further down according to the points they achieved in the Placement Battles.

### **Rule 5 Definitions**

#### **DIFFICULTY FEATURES**

Difficult movement types that teams must use as part of their choreography.

### **FULL TEAM MOVEMENT**

A Full Team Movement requires all skaters to do the exact same movements. A Full Team Movement maybe executed individually in battles or as part of a program. When executed in a program they should be integrated into shape(s) and included as per the the Well-Balanced Program Content.

### **HIGHLIGHTING**

An instance in which individual Skater(s) perform a movement, pose, or action that contrasts with the movements of the team, and is purposeful to draw spectator focus. The highlighters remain part of the team and must preserve flow. Any movements performed by highlighters will not be counted towards the Difficulty Score but are considered in other scores.

### **PATTERN**

Patterns mean distinct patterning modes and are used to showcase ice coverage, continuous movement and use of multidimensional space. Patterns include but are not limited to:

- o Linear
- o Rotational
- o Traveling
- o Intersecting, Passing-through
- o Weaving/Interlocking
- o Multiple rotational directions
- o Mirror image
- o Serpentine

## **Rule 6 Scoring System and Calculation of Result**

1. Scoring System
  - a) The Scoring System is based on the principle of evaluating Technique (50%) and Artistry (50%). Technique is assessed using the following sub-criterias: Difficulty and Synchronisation.  
Artistry is assessed using the following sub-criterias: Originality and Performance.
  - b) There is a Judging Panel consisting of a Referee and 10 Judges. All Judges are qualified in assessing both Technique and Artistry. 5 judges are drawn as Technique Judges and draw for seats: 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9. 5 Judges are drawn as Artistry Judges and draw for seats 2, 4, 6 & 8 & 10. A Technique Judge evaluates Difficulty and Synchronization. An Artistry Judge evaluates Performance and Originality.
  - c) If due to a force majeure situation a full Judges panel is not reached, the ISU may grant permission for a minimum of 6 Judges and Referee. The panel must at the beginning of each segment, if possible, consist of an even number of Judges.
2. Basic Principles of Calculation
  - a) Scores consist of two parts, Technique Score and Artistry Score. They are further divided into two sub-criterias as follows:  
Technique:
    - Difficulty
    - SynchronizationArtistry:
    - Originality
    - Performance
  - b) The four sub-criterias of difficulty, synchronization, originality and performance are evaluated from 1 to 100 points in increments of 1. Points given by the Judges correspond to the following degrees of the Criteria:

<b>100</b>	Outstanding
<b>90-99</b>	Excellent
<b>80-89</b>	Very good
<b>70-79</b>	Good
<b>60-69</b>	Above Average
<b>50-59</b>	Average
<b>40-49</b>	Below average
<b>30-39</b>	Weak
<b>20-29</b>	Poor
<b>10-19</b>	Very poor
<b>0-9</b>	Extremely poor

- c) Guidelines for marking the 4 sub-criteria are published and updated in ISU Communications.
- d) The total result for each sub-criteria is calculated as follows:
  - (i) The panel's total score for each sub-criteria is determined by calculating the trimmed mean of the numerical values of the scores awarded by Judges. The trimmed mean is calculated by deleting the highest and the lowest values for each sub-criteria and calculating the average of the remaining values.
  - (ii) If after removing the highest and lowest values for each sub-criteria, the scores of a Judge representing the same ISU member as the respective competitor still remain, such scores are removed before calculating the trimmed mean of the remaining values.
  - (iii) If there are fewer than five Judges for Technique or Artistry at the beginning of the segment, the highest and lowest values are not deleted from the calculation. However, the scores of a Judge representing the same ISU member as the respective competitor are removed before calculating the average of the remaining values.
  - (iv) The trimmed mean for each sub-criteria are rounded to two decimals.
- For Program Battles:
  - (i) The total score for each of the four sub-criteria are added together followed by subtraction of any applicable deductions.
  - (ii) The total score of the segment is then divided by 4 and rounded to 2 decimal points, resulting in a maximum total score of 100 points.
- For Full Team Movement battles:
  - (i) One Full Team Movement will be assessed based on one sub-criteria drawn prior to the beginning of the Battle, to be judged as listed above.
  - (ii) The team with the highest score will win the Full Team Movement.
- e) The Judges may be assisted by technology in measuring various items to support their judgement. The items measured and how they are considered in the total scores are defined in the ISU Communications outlining guidelines for marking the 4 criteria.

3. Determination of results

- a) The Team with the highest total score is placed first in the respective segment, except for Battles which are based on a head-to-head result as outlined in a respective Communication. The Team with the next highest total score is placed second; and so on. In the event of a tie, the Team with the highest Synchronization score will be the one to win the Segment. If these results are also equal, the Team with the highest Performance score wins the Segment. If these results are equal, the Team with the highest Difficulty Score wins. Finally, if all three scores are equal, the Team with the highest Originality score wins the Segment. If all 4 scores are equal, the Teams will remain tied in placement.

- b) Scores received in previous segments are not carried forward.
  - c) The final total result of the whole competition will be the final placement of a Team in their last segment.
4. Publication of Results
- a) In the publication of the overall results of an event, the eliminated Teams shall be listed following the Teams who have successfully finished the competition and such eliminated Teams will be listed in order of their placement after their last completed Segment. Disqualified Teams will lose their placements and be officially noted in the intermediate and final results as disqualified (DSQ). Teams having finished the competition and who initially placed lower than the disqualified Teams(s) will move up accordingly in their placement(s).
  - b) Following each Segment the total score, the Panel's points obtained in each sub-criteria, the deductions and the total segment score of every Team must be published.
  - c) Following each Segment a printout indicating the scores from every Judge will be issued.
  - d) The final result must be published as soon as possible after the conclusion of the event. This must include for each Team: (i) the final place; (ii) separately, the placement in each Segment of a competition.
  - e) On conclusion of the event the final placement of each Team must be published.

#### **Rule 7 Details on Starting Rounds**

Teams are required to complete one program of maximum 2.40 minutes with a prescribed theme and/or a Full Team Movement battle, as further specified in an ISU Communication. The required theme and detailed program requirements will be published in an ISU Communication annually or biannually. Additional battles may be included, as further specified in an ISU Communication.

#### **Rule 8 Details on Semi-Finals**

Teams are required to complete one program of maximum 2.40 minutes with a prescribed beats per minute (BPM). The required BPM and detailed program requirements will be published in an ISU Communication annually or biannually.

#### **Rule 9 Details on Finals and Placement Battles**

Teams are required to complete one program of maximum 3.30 minutes with a music of their choice. The detailed program requirements will be published in an ISU Communication annually or biannually.

#### **Rule 10 Draws**

1. The draw for the starting order of the Starting Rounds are made publicly by the Referee. The draw will be held according to the latest World Standings (WS). Teams without WS points will be listed after teams with WS points in alphabetical order by Member.
2. For teams without WS points a Skater from one of the Teams is selected in order to draw for the ISU Member who will start the draw. The draw for the starting order proceeds in alphabetical order by ISU Member, beginning with the ISU Member who was drawn to start.

3. The Teams will be divided into 2 equal groups as per the starting order. The first Team with the highest ranked Team of the WS in group A, the second Team in group B, the third Team in group A and so on. If there is an uneven number of Teams registered for the event, Group A shall have one Team more than Group B.
4. The Starting numbers shall be drawn by each Team, if present or by official representatives of their ISU Member or by members of the Organizing Committee.
5. If a Team withdraws after the draw for the Starting Rounds, they are considered to have lost all remaining battles and marked as withdrawn in the final result. Their battle competitor will win that round provided that the battle competitor finishes the program of the respective round/battle and move on as per the listed competition format.

### **Rule 11 Warm-up periods**

1. A warm-up period must be allotted to each Team for segments including full Programs. For each Program, each Team shall be allowed a warm-up of 1 minute in duration, before the Team is called to start.
2. At the end of each Program, a Team must not take more than 30 seconds for exiting the ice surface.
3. In case of an interruption in the competition due to unforeseen circumstances of more than 10 minutes, the Team(s) concerned will be permitted a second warm-up period.

### **Rule 12 Call to start**

1. Prior to each performance, the names of those Teams about to compete must be clearly called.
2. Prior to the announcement, the next Team to skate must enter the ice surface for their warm-up at the sign of the Referee's assistant at Ice level provided by the Organizer.  
Following the warm-up period, the Team is announced.
3. Teams shall be announced utilizing the Teams' ISU member's name.
4. Each Team must take the starting position and make a signal to the Referee of each Segment of the Program at the latest 30 seconds after their name has been announced. If this time has expired and the Team has not yet taken the starting position, the Referee shall apply a deduction (deducted from the final score). If 60 seconds from the call to the start have been expired and the Team has not yet taken the starting position, the Team will be considered as withdrawn.

### **Rule 13 Determination and publication of results**

Deductions from the Total Score are applied by the Referee for the below violations as follows:

Program time violation	-1.0 for every 5 seconds in excess
Costume and prop violation	-1.0 per program
Costume failure	-1.0 per program
Music requirement violation	-1.0 per program
Late start for start between 1 and 30 seconds late	-1.0
Interruption in excess	
More than 10 seconds up to 20 seconds	-1.0

More than 20 seconds up to 30 seconds	-2.0
More than 30 seconds up to 40 seconds	-3.0
Interruption of the program with allowance of up to 3 minutes to resume from the point of interruption	-4.0 per program
Adverse condition prior the beginning of the program with allowance of up to 3 minutes	-4.0 per program
Illegal movements	-4.0 per movement
Fall	-1.0 per Skater

### Rule 14 Fall

For each fall, the Referee decides whether a fall has occurred. If a fall is confirmed a reduction of -1.0 for each fall is made from the Total Score.

### Rule 15 Publication of Results - Protocol

1. In the publication of the overall results of an event, the Teams who have successfully finished the competition will be listed in order of their placement.
2. Disqualified Teams will lose their placements and be officially noted in the final results as disqualified (DSQ).
3. Teams having finished the competition and who initially placed lower than the disqualified Teams(s) will move up accordingly in their placement(s).
4. Following each Segment, the Final Score and the Score obtained in each criterion from every Judge and the deductions of every Team must be published.
5. The final result must be published as soon as possible after the conclusion of the event. This must include for each Team: (i) the final place; (ii) separately, the Final Score from each Segment/Battle of a Competition.

### Rule 16 Definitions Criteria for Judging

The following judging criteria are used for Synchro9:

#### Technique:

Difficulty  
Synchronization

#### Artistry:

Performance  
Originality

### Rule 17 Officials

The Referee and group of Synchro9 Judges appointed in 2026 shall immediately have the qualification ISU.

### Size of Starting Order Groups Rule 10

Number of Teams                      Syncho9  
 Programs of maximum 3.30 minutes

	maximum of 10
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10	10
11	5 + 6
12	6 + 6
13	6+7
14	7+7
15	7+8
16	8+8
17	8+9
18	9+9
19	9+10
20	10+10
21	7+7+7
22	7+7+8
23	7+8+8
24	8+8+8
25	8+8+9
26	8+9+9
27	9+9+9
28	9+9+10
29	9+10+10
30	10+10+10
31	7+8+8+8
32	8+8+8+8
33	8+8+8+9
34	8+8+9+9
35	8+9+9+9
36	9+9+9+9

Number of Teams                      Syncho9  
 Programs of maximum 3.30 minutes

	maximum of 8
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	4 + 5
10	5 + 5
11	5+6
12	6+6
13	6+7
14	7+7
15	7+8
16	8+8
17	5+6+6
18	6+6+6
19	6+6+7
20	6+7+7
21	7+7+7
22	7+7+8
23	7+8+8
24	8+8+8
25	6+6+6+7
26	6+6+7+7
27	6+7+7+7
28	7+7+7+7
29	7+7+7+8
30	7+7+8+8
31	7+8+8+8
32	8+8+8+8
33	6+6+7+7+7
34	6+7+7+7+7
35	7+7+7+7+7