

2025 - 2026 Records of Clarifications from SySTC for Judges, Technical Officials, Coaches and Skaters Q&A #1

SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

GENERAL

Question #1

Acrobatic Lift; Is a lift where only the lifted Skater(s) head is towards the ice considered Acrobatic?

Answer

The definition of an Acrobatic Lift taken from the Regulations and says that All lifts where the lifted Skater(s) is **in a totally vertical sustained position** with the top of their head towards the ice are considered dangerous and therefore illegal.

If the entire body of the lifted Skater, including their legs and/or arms, are NOT in a totally vertical position with the top of the head towards the ice, then this position is acceptable. The above described position is not considered to be totally vertical.

During a totally vertical position the Skaters' entire body (including their legs and/or arms) and the top of the head towards the ice must be present to call a lift Acrobatic and thus illegal

Question #2

Choreographic series

Does a forward twizzle plus backward twizzle or Inside plus outside rocker meet the criteria for the different difficult turn requirement?

Answer

No this is not acceptable. There must be different "Types" of turns. The TH states 2 different "**types**", which is conflicting information compared to the DG communication.

GENERAL – Officials

Question #1 Excessive Use of Ice

To which element should Excessive Use of Ice be applied?

Answer

Applies to ALL elements, greater than 1/2 of the ice surface (confirm with video review). But does not include the **preparation** (or entry variation) of Intersections, of Move Element and Twizzles Element.

MOVE ELEMENT

Question #1

Choreographic Requirements; The Choreographic Requirements for the ME state that if fms begin at different times then part of the first fm(s) must overlap with the start of the next fm(s). If first Skaters begin in a Biellmann position and then change types to a spiral, can the remaining Skaters begin their first fm at the same type with the spirals or do the fm(s) have to overlap with the first chosen fm position?

Answer

There are no requirements on which fms should overlap, as long as the fms are not completely separate. This example where the first part of the Team has changed type but still remains in a fm position when the next part of the Team begins their first fm is acceptable.

Question #2

Short Program Block Feature; Is it a problem if a Team shows both the Block Feature and a Passing Through/Intersection Feature during the Move Element pattern?

Answer

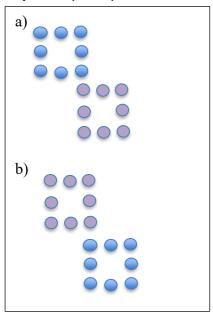
The Well Balanced Program Communication states that for the Junior and Senior Short Programs, Block Feature is required. If a Team chooses to use a pattern which creates an Intersecting/Passing Through, this is acceptable as long as the required Block Feature is also included. However, note that both Features from Group D can only be counted for levels 1 and 2 since levels 3 and 4 require Features from different groups.

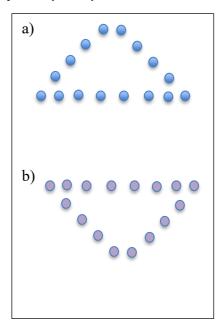
NO HOLD ELEMENT

Question #1

Change of Place; Would the following two examples be accepted as a Change of Place? Example 1 a) to b)

Example 2a) to b)





Answer

The technical panel must evaluate exactly how the change of place is being done since it is difficult to check with only a drawing. IF two lines change place with another line AND/OR Skaters within a line change place with another Skater then the change of place can be accepted.

Example 1: Shows a change of relative position and is not correct for a change of place. However, IF the Skaters within each line change place with another Skater then this example is acceptable.

Example 2: If the two shorter lines change place with each other AND the Skaters within the long line change place with each another Skater then this example is acceptable.

Question #2

Diagonal Pattern; Is it permitted for ½ of the Team to execute one of the required difficult turns starting on the RFI (for example) and the other ½ starting on the LFI (A change of place is done at the same time)

Answer

Yes, it is permitted

Question #3

Diagonal axis:

Communication 2695 states that the Diagonal axis must be done on one diagonal axis. In the Technical Panel Handbook, it is stated that teams may use different diagonal axis and the Feature will be counted. Which of these should we be following?

Answer

The TPH states that a continuous diagonal axis is acceptable. The word "<u>continuous</u>" axis means that teams may change from one diagonal axis to another if done in a continuous manner, without using a straight axis in-between. The goal is to give Teams the opportunity to do something interesting. Please also check the drawing in the TPH.

Twizzle Element

Question #1

What does the "same set" of twizzles mean?

Answer

A set of twizzles refers to the two required twizzles for the TwE. Using the same set of twizzles means that all Skaters must use the same skating direction (forwards or backwards), same entry edge and the same number of rotations for a twizzle. A third twizzle is a Feature but is also part of the set if chosen and must be the same twizzle.