

Communication No. 2684

Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating Season 2025/26

1. General

The Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating, introduced during the 2019/20 season as series of International Synchronized Skating Competitions financially supported by the ISU has proven to be successful and an excellent tool for many Teams to get prepared for qualifying and competing in ISU Championships.

The ISU Council agreed to financially support a restricted group of identified ISU Members traditionally staging International Synchronized Skating Competitions in Europe being part of the ISU Event Calendar and new International Synchronized Skating Competitions in Asia and in North America.

The objective is to ensure the proper and consistent organization and conduct of up to four (4) International Competitions (hereafter "Challengers Series Competitions") linked together within the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating giving adequate opportunities for many Teams to compete at the international level and earn World Standing Points and to get prepared for competing at the ISU Championships; as well to increase the opportunity for Officials to officiate at an international level.

2. Competitions included

- **Three (3) Challenger Series Competitions in Europe will be selected annually between existing International Competitions on the ISU calendar.**

And

- **One (1) Challenger Series Competition in North America or Asia.**

3. Minimum requirements

To be considered for the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating, the Competition must have the following minimum of entries per categories:

- **Junior / Senior Teams: minimum of five (5) entries** each, from at least **four (4) ISU Members**

Each Competition must strictly comply with the ISU Constitution, General and Special Regulations and Technical Rules 2024, in particular but not limited to the current Rules in the ISU Constitution and General Regulations 2024 and the Special Regulations and Technical Rules Synchronized Skating 2024.

4. Application and selection procedure for Challenger Series Competitions

ISU Members regularly hosting an International Synchronized Skating Competition in their country and applying for such Competition scheduled between November 15, 2025 and February 8, 2026, to become a Challenger Series Competition, must send an application to the ISU Secretariat.

The application must reach the ISU Secretariat (entries@isu.org) by **March 7, 2025** and needs to include:

- Description of the venue
- Description of the hotel(s)
- Structure of the Organizing Committee
- History/tradition of the International Competition.

After evaluation of the applications received, the ISU Council will determine up to 4 Challenger Series Competitions for the season 2025/26 giving preference to International Competitions having a certain tradition and continuity. The selected Challenger Series Competitions will be published through an ISU Communication.

5. Entries

Participation is open to all Teams of ISU Members who are eligible for International "Senior" and "Junior" Competitions and meet the respective age (Rule 108) and citizenship requirements (Rule 109). Entries must be made through the respective ISU Member.

The following entry restrictions apply:

- Maximum of two (2) entries per Challenger Series Competition and age category (Junior & Senior) except for Teams of the organizing ISU Members for whom no limitation applies;
- Each Team may be entered only into a maximum of 2 Challenger Series Competitions per season;
- For the Senior category, there will be a limitation of 12 Teams per Challenger Series event. Each ISU Member will be first offered one quota, based in order of the submitted entries in ORS. In case of remaining available spots, ISU Members will be allowed to enter a second Team, based on the same principle.

6. Appointment of Event Officials

- a) According to Rule 910, paragraph 1.c) the Referees, the Technical Controllers and the Technical Specialists will be appointed by the ISU Synchronized Skating Technical Committee.
- b) Following the principles of Rule 910, paragraph 5.a) of the ISU Special Regulations and Technical Rules Synchronized Skating 2024, the members of each individual Technical Panel (Technical Controller and the Technical Specialists) must not be from the same ISU Member. The Technical Panel members must have the qualification of "ISU", however one of the three members may have the qualification "International".
- c) The Referee must have at least the qualification "International" and can be of the same ISU Member as one member of the Technical Panel (Technical Controller and Technical Specialists).
- d) The Data Operator and the Replay Operator must have the qualification of at least "International".
- e) No exception can be granted with respect to the above-mentioned composition of the Technical Panels and the qualification of the Referees and Data & Replay Operators.
- f) The Technical Panel members, the Referee and the Data and Replay Operators must be proposed by the respective organizing ISU Member to the ISU Secretariat latest 45 days prior to the first day of the Competition. Based on the information received and further to internal ISU consultations, involving possible changes as necessary to comply with the above-mentioned minimum requirements, the ISU Vice President Figure Skating will decide upon the final appointments of the above-mentioned Event Officials. The respective organizing ISU Member will be informed through the ISU Secretariat and must inform the participating ISU Members accordingly.
- g) The panel of Judges must include at least seven Judges, all from different ISU Members. The qualification of the Judges must be at least "International". The panel of Judges must be submitted to the ISU Secretariat latest seven days before the first day of the Competition for review and approval.
- h) The organizing ISU Member will provide and cover the expenses for rooms and meals for all Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialists, the Data and Replay Operators and Judges participating. The organizing ISU Member will cover the costs for travel expenses for all Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialists, the Data and Replay Operators.

7. Officials Remuneration

The Judges, the Referees, the Technical Controllers, the Technical Specialists and the Data & Replay Operators officiating in both categories (Senior and/or Junior) in the Challenger Series Competitions will, at the expense of the organizing ISU Member, receive pocket money of USD 250.00 or the equivalent in the local currency.

8. Challenger Series Synchronized Skating Ranking (Senior and Junior)

Upon conclusion of the last Challenger Series Competition of the season, the highest final score in the up to two different Challenger Series Competitions of each Team will be added and taken into consideration to form a Challenger Series Synchronized Skating Ranking which will be published on the ISU website taking the following calculation principles and tie breaking criteria into consideration:

- The Total Competition Score will be added to the Team Total Challenger Series Synchronized Skating Score which determines the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating Ranking / Result;

- If the Total Challenger Series Synchronized Skating Score is tied for two or more Teams the following tie breaking criteria's will be in use:
 - the higher sum of the two Free Skating scores of the 2 Competitions used for calculating the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating Score will break the tie(s);
 - if they remain tied, the higher Free Skating score of the 2 Competitions used for calculating the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating will break the tie(s);
 - if the remain tied, the higher sum of the two Short Program scores of the 2 Competitions used for calculating the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating Score will break the tie(s);
 - if they remain tied, the higher Short Program score of the 2 Competitions used for calculating the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating Score will break the tie(s);
 - If these criteria fail to break the tie(s), the Teams in question will be considered as tied.

9. ISU Contribution

Each ISU Member, organizing a Challenger Series Competition will receive an ISU contribution of **USD 22'500**. This contribution will be paid if and when the Challenger Series Competition has been successfully completed in line with the requirements included in this ISU Communication, in the General Announcement of the Challenger Series Synchronized Skating and all relevant ISU Rules and Regulations. The contribution must be used to cover the costs for the Officials Honorarium (see paragraph 7) and the Expenses for accommodation and travel (see paragraph 6.h). Any remaining funds may cover ice costs or other organizational expenses of the organizing ISU Member.

February 10, 2025

Jae Youl Kim, President

Colin Smith, Director General