

Communication No. 2335

Decisions of the Council

The ISU Council met on July 6, 2020 via an online meeting. The following were among the decisions taken by the Council during the meeting.

1. Definite allotment of ISU Championships season 2020/21

In accordance with Rule 127 of the ISU General Regulations, the Council has definitely allotted the following Championships for 2021 as follows:

Short Track Speed Skating

ISU European Short Track Speed Skating Championships to be held in Gdansk, Poland on January 15-17, 2021

Note regarding the Covid-19 situation:

The ISU Council will closely monitor the COVID-19 related developments in close consultation with the appointed Working Groups (see ISU Communications 2320 and 2327) and the organizing ISU Members of all ISU Events and will decide upon and communicate any postponement and/or change of location and/or cancellations as soon as possible.

2. Entries – ISU Figure Skating Championships 2021

i) Single/Pair Skating, Ice Dance

Entries of competitors for the ISU European Figure Skating Championships 2021, ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships 2021 and ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships 2021 will be based on the results of the corresponding 2020 Championships as usual.

As the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2020 were not held, the entries for those Championships will be used for the ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2021.

ii) Synchronized Skating

As the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships 2020 were not held, the entries for those Championships will be used for the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships 2021.

The ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships 2020 were held, but some ISU Members were not able to take part because of COVID-19. According to Rule 868, at ISU Synchronized Skating Championships, the top five (5) placed ISU Members in the previous ISU Synchronized Skating Championships may enter two (2) Teams.

For the ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships 2021, this means that Finland, Russia, Canada, Sweden and Poland may enter two (2) Teams. In addition, exceptionally, the USA may enter a second Team because the USA has been in the top five placed ISU Members in the previous three seasons and the two USA Teams entered at the 2020 Championships were not able to compete due to COVID-19.

3. ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating season 2020/21

The ISU Council considered the report and recommendations of the Council appointed Working Group on the planning of Season 2020/21 as well as input from the ISU Medical Commission.

The Council acknowledged that with the global spread of the coronavirus, the unknown extent and effects of a possible second wave and the fact that there is for the time being no available vaccine or medication, the situation remains fragile and unpredictable. Even for national events there is currently already a huge complexity of factors to consider on every level. Furthermore, on the international level, with travel, accommodation and different public health procedures in each country for testing, tracking, quarantine, treatment, social distancing, mandatory masks etc. it is currently extremely difficult to plan and co-ordinate every aspect of an event in order to ensure the safety of the participants.

The following considerations and provisory decisions relating to the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating season 2020/21 are based on the ISU Council's commitment (see ISU Communication 2320) that the health and safety of the participants of international ice skating events remain the number one priority but also the need to give Skaters the best possible opportunities to compete internationally and that consequently the ISU will do its utmost to support ISU Members in order to stage all international competitions that can be held safely during the season 2020/21.

Keeping in mind the above-mentioned reservations, and noting that for some locations there remain pending questions as to applicable travel and other restrictions which could lead to additional cancellations, the Council noted that the following ISU Junior Grand Prix events for the season 2020/21 are currently planned:

1st event (including Pair Skating)	September 9-12, 2020	Budapest / HUN
2nd event (including Pair Skating)	September 23-26, 2020	Ostrava / CZE
3rd event (including Pair Skating)	September 30-October 3, 2020	Tashkent / UZB
4th event	October 7-10, 2020	Ljubljana / SLO
5th event (including Pair Skating)	October 14-17, 2020	Riga / LAT

The initially planned Junior Grand Prix events in the Slovak Republic, Canada and Japan have been cancelled by the organizers.

The Council agreed with the Working Group's conclusion that due to the current travel and other restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Junior Grand Prix events cannot in any case be held under the previously planned conditions. In particular, it would be impossible to allocate dedicated entries to each of the currently remaining events. In addition, travel and other restrictions vary among the countries of host and participating ISU Members and might change over time. Determining the allocation of entries and ensuring safe and unrestricted travel to the respective event would result in a logistical challenge, potential serious complications and the risk of continual adjustments.

The Council therefore decided that for the above-mentioned scheduled ISU Junior Grand Prix events:

- a) No ISU Junior Grand Prix points will be awarded and no ISU Junior Grand Prix Ranking for 2020/21 will be established.

- b) A decision regarding the holding of the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final scheduled on December 10-13, 2020 in Beijing and the corresponding qualification criteria remains pending and will be taken during a subsequent Council meeting.
- c) There will be no pre-allocated entries for ISU Members to participate in each Junior Grand Prix event and ISU Members may choose in which events they will enter their Skaters.
- d) The exact entry limitations and procedures and other logistical details (including issues such as Prize Money and World Standing points) will be published as soon as possible through an updated General Announcement for the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating 2020/21 and the individual Announcements for each ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating event.
- e) Updated Guidelines for medical care and safety are currently under preparation by the ISU Event Coordinators and the ISU Medical Commission and will also be communicated as soon as possible.

4. Challenger Series 2020/21

The Council agreed that, in line with the recommendation of the Council appointed Working Group on the planning of Season 2020/21, the Challenger Series Events for both Figure Skating and Synchronized Skating in the Season 2020/21 should be held as individual events and not as a Series. There will be no Challenger Series ranking and therefore no Prize Money distributed at the end of the season. The Skaters attending these Challenger Series Events will still be awarded Challenger Series World Standing points provided the general Challenger Series requirements are followed (in regard to appointment of officials, number of entries, etc.).

5. Next Council meeting

The Council will meet again online on Monday August 3, 2020.

The Council also decided that its meeting scheduled for October 16-18, 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland, will instead be held online, due to the uncertainty of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic situation, particularly as regards international travel. The same will also apply until further notice for meetings or seminars and examinations of other ISU internal bodies which will either be held on-line or postponed.

Tubbergen,
July 13, 2020
Lausanne,

Jan Dijkema, President

Fredi Schmid, Director General